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**ZIMBABWE LIVESTOCK FOR ACCELERATED RECOVERY AND IMPROVED
RESILIENCY (ZRR)**

Quarterly Report

January – March 2013

Agreement AID-OFDA-G-12-00032

**USAID/ZIMBABWE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE
SOUTHERN AFRICA**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACHM	Africa Centre for Holistic Management
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CLW	Community Livestock Worker
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
EMMP	Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
HLLM	Holistic Land and Livestock Management
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
OFDA	Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PRIZE	Promoting Recovery in Zimbabwe
RDC	Rural District Council
ToT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
ZDL	Zimbabwe Dairy and Livestock Program

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

On May 16, USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and Land O'Lakes International Development signed an agreement for Land O'Lakes to implement the Zimbabwe Livestock for Accelerated Recovery and Improved Resiliency (ZRR) project. ZRR aims to combat the negative effects of years of detrimental government policy and severe economic decline in Zimbabwe, which, coupled with a series of droughts and unpredictable rainfall, have decimated the small livestock sector. Through May 15, 2014, ZRR will provide training in livestock production, restock household herds, build community capacity in rangeland management, develop rangeland management plans, revive the livestock infrastructure, and link producers to markets.

Implementation of project activities intensified during the January- March quarter. During this quarter, 409 households out of a target of 600 benefitted from 830 goats purchased. Fourteen (14) movable kraals have been established across all the project areas. Twenty-three (23) Community Livestock Workers (CLWs) in Matebeleland province were trained on animal health and goat husbandry. This brought the total number of trainers to sixty-eight (68). They are now working on vaccinations and treatment of livestock.

ZRR engaged a Consultant to do the goat market study in Manicaland and the M&E team participated in goat sales pens and diptanks case studies in conjunction with CRS and Government departments. The project continues to engage stakeholders at ward level to gain their support during implementation. The construction of goats sale pens and dip tanks in Manicaland has been stalled as consultations with RDCs and other stakeholders took longer than anticipated to come up with the most appropriate sites. The rainy season was also not a conducive period to start the construction of these assets. Construction of these critical assets is going to start in the coming quarter. After the completion of the goat market study and the CRS case studies, the project now has a clear direction of how the goat sales pens and dip tanks should be sited to promote the use of these infrastructure.

ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS AND CROSSCUTTING ISSUES

Administration: The project has maintained the same staff compliment from the previous quarter. An additional staff member will be engaged on a part-time basis to give some time to offer specialized business training to goats producer groups in Manicaland.

Environmental Compliance & Gender: During the quarter, ZRR staff continued to incorporate environmental compliance into project activities, specifically through training farmers on the effects of vaccines and treatment drugs on goat meat, as well as through training on the proper disposal of drug containers, to minimize hazards to humans and the environment. Groups were encouraged to continue working on their sites to make sure that they comply with the environmental management guidelines, working in groups to establish nursery tree to replace trees which is cut during construction of goat housing, back filling/closing pits dug during construction of goat housing. Some of the

environmental management issues were covered during rangeland management trainings, which focuses on restoring degraded land and natural water sources. The project provides these ongoing trainings to CLWs, community leaders and stakeholders.

The ZRR project promotes gender equity as a cross-cutting issue and is already showing high levels of women's participation across activities; 48% of CLWs that have been trained so far are women, and 58% of the households trained are female-headed households.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E): During the quarter, the M&E team worked with Bucklesbury Consultancy in conducting a goat market study in Manicaland Province. The team also participated in conjunction with CRS and Government departments to conduct case studies on the use of small livestock sales pens and goat diptanks from the USAID-funded Promoting Recovery in Zimbabwe (PRIZE) Title II program. The studies were aimed at informing the project management on the best strategies to take in the construction of such assets since it has been noted that some of these assets were not fully utilized. The M&E team also participated in a one-week intensive training on Environmental Impact and Mitigation Plans conducted by USAID.

SECTION II: PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME ACTIVITY ACHIEVEMENT

Activities during the period focused heavily on CLW and farmer training, particularly on the topics of goat housing, production, nutrition, breeding and Holistic Land and Livestock Management (HLLM). One of the major highlights of the quarter was the delivery and use of fourteen movable kraals to heal the land in project sites. An additional 190 beneficiaries (78 males and 112 females) were registered, hitting the program target of 2,000 registered beneficiaries. To date, 902 goats have been purchased, against the target of 1500; 830 of them this quarter. In total, 409 households (107 males and 302 females) have benefited from the goats (target: 600). This quarter, the project ramped up rangeland management activities, training 68 CLWs (36 males and 32 females) rangeland management, exceeding the target by 18 people. The project continues to be on track with its annual work plan ([See Appendix 1](#)).

INTERMEDIATE RESULT NO.1: INCREASED GOAT PRODUCTION & MARKETING BY VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS & COMMUNITIES

During the quarter, Land O'Lakes trained total of 1,025 individuals from 416 households (157 male-headed and 259 female-headed households). Sixty-two were trained on goat housing, 262 on flock management, 55 on goat marketing, 259 on demo plot silage preparation, 387 on rangeland management and 88 on goat breeding.

Goat housing training was conducted in Matebeleland south province. After the goat housing training, farmer groups teamed up to start construction of the goat housing in groups. The goat housing will be constructed using locally available materials which are cheap and easy to access. Out of 50 targeted goat houses, 24 hutches have been constructed. In other project sites, the field staff is continuously mobilizing farmers to construct proper goat housing structures. Farmers who already have goat houses are

encouraged to repair them frequently especially during the rainy season because goats are more susceptible to disease during this period.

Goat breeding continues in the project areas, with the project training eighty-eight farmers on goat breeding in Matebeleland South during the quarter. This training session imparted goat breeding techniques to the farmer groups, to keep improving the quality and productivity of the goats. Farmers were advised on how to make more income from a few high quality goats, rather than large amounts of low quality goats. The project identified seven CLWs in Makoni district to take care of breeding bucks.

Silage making training was provided for 259 individuals from fodder grown on the project demo plots. The project held field days across all the project sites on fodder production, reaching 416 individuals. ZRR staff demonstrated how to use a urea stover treatment and how to make goat silage. The demonstrations were successful since farmers were trained on how to prepare pit silage and treatment of stover with urea as ways of preserving stover. As a result, a farmer group from Mangwe district was able to prepare pit silage using crops from the demonstration plot.

The project is in process of procuring construction materials of five sales pens and goat dip tanks. Since this quarter fell during a busy farming season, construction work will start in the coming quarter. Preliminary findings of the goat marketing study shows that the utilization of these assets is not prominent in most project areas due to lack of proper coordination of the stakeholders. From these lessons, the project will channel efforts towards promotion of utilization of these assets by engaging all the stakeholders involved. The rural district councils, police, abattoirs, private buyers, government extension workers are some of the stakeholders that will be involved in goat marketing

In order to promote planned marketing by producer groups and restocking of goats for other households, during this quarter, Land O'Lakes purchased 830 goats (313 in Makoni, 413 in Mutare and 104 in Buhera). The project has distributed them to 409 households out of a target of 600, bringing the percentage of farmers with an increased asset base to 20% for the quarter (target 60%). Over the life of the project, 902 goats have been purchased and distributed. The Land O'Lakes business development team has strengthened ten producer groups through trainings of the committee members on governance and conflict management.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT NO.2: INCREASED COMMUNITIES' CAPACITY FOR & PRACTICE OF SUSTAINABLE RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

The Lead Trainers (trained by ACHM during the July - September quarter) shared their knowledge with 68 CLWs (33 males and 35 females) on HLLM methodology during this quarter. The CLWs will help in cascading down the training to the ordinary farmers and the methodology in the targeted communities. During the quarter, the project has trained 387 individuals (174 males and 213 females) HLLM methodology. The trainings equipped CLWs, farmers and community leaders with skills and knowledge to: facilitate the Community Action Cycle (CAC) process; and help participating communities restore their land and water, strengthen their capacity to identify/prioritize land and water issues as

well as plan and implement effective strategies (by their own knowledge, Holistic Land and Livestock Management and others) to restore the land and water.

ACHM staff visited project sites in Matebeleland Province to reinforce trainings being conducted by the ZRR field staff. From their recommendations, they noted that the project is on track but more effort should be channeled towards rangeland management activities. They suggested that the project take local leadership and some community members to ACHM in Victoria Falls/Hwange to see HLLM methodology in practice.

During the quarter, ZRR held a workshop with the Local leaders (Chiefs, Village Heads, Ward and Village development committees) and local Government officials across the project sites on the rangeland management. The training covered droughts and floods, the ecosystem processes, land planning for grazing, herd management and low stress animal handling. At the end of the workshop, the groups came up with their own implementation plans. During the quarter, 100 hectares of degraded land have been positively impacted by project activities, particularly through the co-herding of animals across all the project sites. This brings the total to 120 hectares against the target of 2000. More land will be positively impacted in the dry season when farmers will kraal together their animals in their fields. The movable kraals contribute to land healing through fertilizing and improving the water infiltration rate through hoof action.

During the quarter, the project distributed thirteen movable kraals across project sites (3 Makoni, 3 Marange, 3 Buhera, 2 Mangwe and 2 Bulilima). To date, fourteen movable kraals have been distributed and 1 hectare has been impacted. One hundred percent of the targeted communities are applying improved farm and rangeland management techniques. Farmers welcomed the idea of movable kraals; in Buhera, farmers are now kraaling one hundred cattle everyday. Communities in Matebeleland South are keen to have bigger movable kraals since some villages have large herd of more than 500 cattle which can not be handled by movable kraals which are in place.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT NO. 3: INCREASED CAPACITY OF AND ACCESS TO ANIMAL HEALTH & LIVESTOCK EXTENSION SERVICES

During the current quarter, the project trained a total of 23 CLWs (9 males and 14 females) from Mangwe and Bulilima district. This brings the total to 68 CLWs trained in animal health and animal husbandry.

To date, 2320 animals have been treated against the project target of 1500. The project has introduced CLW activity report forms where they are supposed to record all their activities for the month. During the quarter 48 CLWs sent their reports which translate to 70% of the CLWs utilizing their skills to train farmers. The number of treated animals is expected to further increase in the next quarter, since the project is continuously working on mobilizing farmers to set up drug revolving funds across all the project sites. These funds will help in procurement of drugs for use by the CLWs.

During the quarter, a total of 70 farmers in Mangwe paid the drug revolving fund contributing of \$40 each. These farmers have already bought, acaricides and wound oil for the goats.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

During the quarter, Land O'Lakes conducted goat census across the project sites, revealing a population of 11,482 goats which include the goats distributed by Land O'Lakes and other goats owned by the farmers. The census will now be carried out on a monthly basis to help the project track the growth of the flock and the adoption of trainings given to the farmers to avoid goat mortality.

SECTION III: CHALLENGES AND LESSON LEARNED

The largest challenge for ZRR has been in the implementation of HLLM methodology. Communities are not used to kraaling at night and herding their livestock together. Project staff fear that farmers may lose track along the way especially on herding together, impacting crop field soils and rangeland. As a result, the project plans to conduct frequent appraisal meetings and follow up often to support implementation.

Availability of breeding stock of goats for purchase has been a challenge in some districts like Buhera because of the small goat population. The project resorted to out sourcing from nearby districts.

The rainfall was not evenly distributed through out the season, and most of the crops suffered from a dry spell in February and March. For instance, in Matebeleland South, almost 90% of the crops are a write-off, leaving most of the farmers in a desperate situation. Small livestock farming is another way of assisting the farmers to be food secure since they will have food purchasing power from goat sales.

There was a delay in tagging the procured goats since tags were not available in the market at time of purchase. However they are now available and all the 902 goats were tagged. Tagging is important, as it will help the farmers in identification, ability to trace individual treatment of each animal.

SECTION IV: CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

CONCLUSION

Land O'Lakes is on track with most planned activities. Trainings are progressing on schedule, and through consultation and relationship building, all stakeholders have supported the project. In the next quarter, particular effort will be put towards the implementation of HLLM methodologies, and the construction of goat sales pens and dip tanks.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT NO. 1: INCREASED GOAT PRODUCTION & MARKETING BY VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS & COMMUNITIES

- Construction of sales pens will begin in the next quarter when rains stop and farmers are done with harvest.
- Goat procurement through the voucher system will continue to be carried out in the 10 project sites so that the project will have ample time to monitor the pass-on process.
- Planned goat marketing will take place in all 10 project sites.
- Fodder harvesting, silage making and conservation emphasized through training and extension.
- Goat husbandry training will continue to take place

INTERMEDIATE RESULT NO. 2: INCREASED COMMUNITIES' CAPACITY FOR & PRACTICE OF SUSTAINABLE RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

- Monitoring on usage of the fourteen movable kraals will be done
- Additional rangeland management training for farmers and other stakeholders will be conducted , to promote full-community buy-in.
- Farmers and leadership will participate in an exchange visit to ACHM's headquarters in Victoria Falls to underscore the potential of the HLLM methodology.

INTERMEDIATE RESULT NO. 3: INCREASED CAPACITY OF AND ACCESS TO ANIMAL HEALTH & LIVESTOCK EXTENSION SERVICES

- Dip tank materials will be procured and construction will begin.
- Protective clothing and Vet kits for the CLWs will be procured.

APPENDIX 1: QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE DATA TABLE

Zimbabwe Livestock for Accelerated Recovery and Improved Resiliency			Start Current Year	1 Oct 2012	Start Project	16 May 2012	Year	1	Current Work Plan Start date:		
Agreement No.	AID-OFDA-G-12-00032	End Current Year	30-Sept-13	End Project	15 May 2014	Quarter	1	15 May 2012			
#	Performance Indicator (*)	Unit of Measure	Disaggregation	Remark	Baseline		FY2 - Jan-March 2013		Total		Comments
					Year	Value	Target	Actual	Target	Cumulative	
SO: Reduce risk through enhanced institutional and community capacities to respond to and mitigate the effects of disasters, strengthen the resiliency of vulnerable communities, and reduce exposure to hazards through the effective use of goats and rangeland management.											
A	Number of animals benefitting from or affected by livestock activities	Number	Total	Annual Value	2012	0	3720	1451	6200	3146	
B	Number of people benefitting from livestock activities	# of individuals	Total, Gender	Annual Value	2012	0	1240	1027	6200	2227	
C	Number of veterinary interventions, treatments or vaccinations administered	Number	Total	Cumulative	2012	0	0	1451	2000	3146	
D	Number of animals treated or vaccinated	Number	Total	Cumulative	2012	0	0	625	1500	2320	

#	Performance Indicator (*)	Unit of Measure	Disaggregation	Remark	Baseline		FY2 - Jan-March 2013		Total		Comments
					Year	Value	Target	Actual	Target	Cumulative	
E	Number of individuals participating in disaster risk reduction activities	# of individuals	Total, age and gender, training type, CLW, ToT, Farmer training	Cumulative	2012	0	1240	1027	6200	2227	
F	% of beneficiary households with improved productive asset base	%	Total, Gender	Cumulative	2012	0%	0%	20%	60%	30%	
G	% of beneficiary female headed households with improved productive asset base	%	Total	Cumulative	2012	0%	0%	12%	60%	18%	
IR1 Increased goat production asset building and improve access to markets by vulnerable households and communities											
1.1	Number of households trained or receiving technical assistance in goat production and marketing	# of hh	Total, Gender	Annual Value	2012	0	400	416	2000	823	
1.2	Average value of Assets (tools, Livestock, domestic) In	US\$	Total	Ave	2012	1914	0	0	2070		No other surveys completed after the

#	Performance Indicator (*)	Unit of Measure	Disaggregation	Remark	Baseline		FY2 - Jan-March 2013		Total		Comments
					Year	Value	Target	Actual	Target	Cumulative	
	targeted Participating Households										baseline (July '12) Measured annually.
1.3	Number of households receiving goats from the program and participating in producer groups	Number	Total, gender	Annual Value	2012	0	0	409	600	409	
1.4	Number of goat producer groups formed or strengthened	Number	Total	Annual Value	2012	0	5	10	10	10	Surpassed target. Farmers were too many to be managed in five groups
1.5	Proportion of producer group membership comprised of females	%	Total, gender	Cumulative	2012	0	20%	55%	30%	55%	
1.6	Number of producer groups linked to markets	Number	Total	Annual Value	2012	0	0	5	10	5	
IR2: Increased communities' capacity for and practice of sustainable rangeland management											
2.1	Number of CLW's trained in farm and sustainable rangeland management techniques	# of individuals	Total, gender	Annual Value	2012	0	50	68	50	68	

#	Performance Indicator (*)	Unit of Measure	Disaggregation	Remark	Baseline		FY2 - Jan-March 2013		Total		Comments
					Year	Value	Target	Actual	Target	Cumulative	
2.2	Number of individuals trained in improved farm and rangeland management techniques	# of individuals	Total, gender, training type, CLW, ToT, Farmer training	Annual Value	2012	0	1240	387	6200	926	Few few farmers attended trainings due to field work
2.3	Number of grazing management plans developed and utilized by communities	Number	Total	Annual Value	2012	0	0	5	6	5	
2.4	Communities applying improved farm and sustainable rangeland management techniques	Number	Total	Annual Value	2012	0	0	5	6	6	
2.5	Number of hectares (ha) under improved land management	Number	Total	Cumulative	2012	100	100	100	2000	120	Farmers need more training to understand advantages of the HLLM
2.6	% of community farmers applying improved farm and sustainable rangeland management techniques	%	Total, gender	Cumulative	2012	0	0%	100%	50%	100%	

#	Performance Indicator (*)	Unit of Measure	Disaggregation	Remark	Baseline		FY2 - Jan-March 2013		Total		Comments
					Year	Value	Target	Actual	Target	Cumulative	
IR3: Increased capacity of and access to animal health and livestock extension services											
3.1	Number of CLW's trained	# of individuals	Total, gender	Annual Value	2012	0	0	68	50	68	
3.2	Percentage of CLWs utilizing their training and skills to train farmers	#of individuals	Total, gender	Cumulative	2012	0	0%	70%	60%	70%	Some CLWs that have been trained are still awaiting vet kits.
3.3	Number of women responsible for making household decisions in veterinary care and management of their goats	# of individuals	Total	Cumulative	2012	1891	1891	0	2480	0	No other surveys were completed after the baseline, which was done in July. This indicator is measured annually.
3.4	Number of households served by CLWs	# of HH	Total, gender	Annual Value	2012	0	0	200	2000	450	

APPENDIX 2: SUCCESS STORY



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SNAPSHOT

A New Home on the Rangeland

Farmers in Buhera District use moveable kraals to improve soil



Photo by: Dai Harvey

Cattle fertilize and aerate the soil, improving productivity

Each night, farmers move their herds into the kraal, allowing that section of land to receive a concentration of urine and manure as well as a good churning of the topsoil by multiple hooves. Every five to ten days, these light-weight metal kraals are moved [...] Over time, this natural fertilizer and tillage improves crop and grazing yields [...].

Degraded rangeland is an acute problem in Buhera district, where farmers struggle to break the tough soil and animals nibble at dry scrub. With funding from USAID/OFDA, the Zimbabwe Livestock for Accelerated Recovery and Improved Resiliency project (ZRR) is helping farmers and communities across four districts to tackle this problem by integrating livestock with innovative rangeland management and soil conservation practices.

Under this project, Land O'Lakes and its partner, the African Center for Holistic Management, introduced the concept of a moveable kraal. Each night, farmers move their herds into the kraal, allowing that section of land to receive a concentration of urine and manure as well as a good churning of the topsoil by multiple hooves. Every five to ten days, these light-weight metal kraals are moved, until the entire cropping area or poor rangeland has been covered. Over time, this natural fertilizer and tillage improves crop yields and grazing land, as well as water filtration, leading to better household food security, and it reduces labor in that manure does not need to be moved out of the kraals.

Implemented since May 2012, the ZRR project combats the negative effects of years of severe economic decline in Zimbabwe, which, coupled with a series of droughts and unpredictable rainfall, have decimated the small livestock sector. Through May 15, 2014, the project will provide training in livestock production, restock household herds, build community capacity in rangeland management, develop rangeland management plans, revive the livestock infrastructure, and link producers to markets.

The project has established fourteen kraal sites with over 280 animals being used to improve the soil and overall environment. Livestock owners across Zimbabwe are excited about the system as a way to manage cattle and the environment. The next step for the kraals will be further training in more communities in Makoni, Marange, Buhera, Mangwe and Bulilima.

Telling Our Story
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