



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

Annual Report

May – September 2012

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USAID/ZIMBABWE

OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Submitted to:

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACHM	Africa Centre for Holistic Management
CLW	Community Livestock Worker
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
EMMP	Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
HLLM	Holistic Land and Livestock Management
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
OFDA	Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
ZDL	Zimbabwe Dairy and Livestock Program
ZRR	Zimbabwe Livestock for Accelerated Recovery and Improved Resilience

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.

The project start-up process covered a period of two and half months. In May and June, a rapid staff recruitment, equipment procurement and accounting systems setup were completed. Between June and July all recruited staff was inducted and on-the-ground to begin implementation of the project. In June, the PMP was reviewed and a finalized version was submitted to the donor, and by the end of July, a baseline study conforming to USAID's guidelines was completed and a study report submitted. The projects' sub-awardee's scope of work was completed, agreed upon, and their operations began on July 29, 2012. By the first week of August 2012, using the baseline results, detailed work plans were developed covering the LOA, annual time frame, and the second quarter of project implementation.

ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS AND CROSSCUTTING ISSUES

Administration: The project is fully staffed with six full time employees, and the project has sourced two vehicles and four motorbikes. Land O'Lakes obtained MOUs from five rural district councils and now has permission to work in their respective districts.

Environmental Compliance & Gender: ZRR is mainstreaming environmental issues both at household and group levels, principally through holistic rangeland management activities. The project aims for 30% of beneficiaries participating in holistic management activities and 50% of community farmers applying improved farm and sustainable rangeland management techniques to be women. An Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP) was completed and circulated to all project implementation staff and submitted to OFDA/USAID.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E): Land O'Lakes completed the ZRR baseline assessment, which was submitted to OFDA on August 15th 2012. The ZRR work plan and the PMP were also completed and submitted to OFDA during the year.

The project is tracking indicator progress through compilation of all training records into the project's database. Monitoring of these indicators will help to ensure that the project can achieve set outputs and outcomes.

Land O'Lakes implemented a Holistic Land and Livestock Management (HLLM) approach, which is participatory and involves farmers from the initial stages of planning and implementation of land management strategies. Farmers will monitor their performance through participating in the program.

The project has identified CLWs to work with farmers as a way to strengthen the sustainability of the program results. CLWs will serve farmers within their respective areas, and the trainings they undergo will set CLWs up to be a broad knowledge resource base in the communities.

SECTION II: SUMMARY OF PROGRAM ACTIVITY ACHIEVEMENT

Activities during the period focused on the rapid start-up of the ZRR program, including hiring and fielding staff, completing baselines, work planning, and procuring equipment. Given this necessary focus on start-up, apart from some exceptions highlighted below, progress on most PMP targets and indicators was not registered during the reporting period. However, as a result, all project components are in an excellent position to meet the targets in the PMP (see Annex 1) during FY13. Through the approaches and activities outlined in Section IV below, we expect to be able to report significant progress in our next quarterly and annual reports.

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

During the year, nine communities were mobilised at the ward level. These mobilization activities were carried out to appraise the community's interest and capacity to participate in project activities. Land O'Lakes first conducted assessments of groups affiliated with another Land O'Lakes led project – the Zimbabwe Dairy and Livestock Program (ZDL) - to gauge the functionality of the groups' committees. Farmers in all the project sites welcomed the Land O'Lakes' initiative to collaborate with them on goat production.

Land O'Lakes began to register beneficiaries in the project operating areas. To date, 1,627 farmer households have been registered as potential beneficiaries. The project is aiming to work with 2,000 beneficiary households by May 2014. Anyone that has or is willing to construct proper goat housing structures can be registered as a potential project beneficiary.

Land O'Lakes trained a total of 717 farmers (of which 423 are women) against the target of 400 during the year; 572 were trained on goat housing and dentition and 145 on goat production as a business. The trainings informed farmers of the requirements for proper goat housing, such as ventilation, roofing and adequate space for the goats to move freely. On dentition, farmers improved their capacity to determine a goat's age by its teeth, an important skill for better management, particularly concerning breeding. The goat production business training concentrated on identifying business opportunities, seeking capital opportunities, calculating risk, persuasion and networking, formulation of business plans and market information seeking.

The project facilitated formation of ten goat producer groups (against the target of five), eight in Manicaland Province and two in Matebeleland Province. The higher than anticipated number of groups formed was due to geographic dispersion. While the project initially planned to form one group per ward, it later became apparent that more groups would be necessary to successfully reach all targeted farmers.

During these first months of implementation, field staff felt farmers were not yet sufficiently prepared to receive goats through the livestock fairs, as most farmers had not yet constructed proper goat housing structures. Land O'Lakes will continue training farmers on how to construct a proper goat housing structures as well as the importance of proper housing for goats. These activities will be carried out during FY13 Q1 and Q2.

Land O'Lakes has mobilized farmers to identify 16 demonstration plots for fodder production as the rainy season approaches. To date, 25kg of sugar graze and 20 kg of velvet beans have been distributed by Land O'Lakes in each district for the fodder demo plots. The project aims to distribute 60 kg of fodder seed per district for the demo plots by 1 November 2012. ZRR has experienced difficulty in sourcing quality seed; the project can only obtain certified sugar graze and velvet bean seed, and has had challenges in accessing other varieties such as sun hemp. The project will only distribute the certified seeds, although more effort is being put into sourcing other varieties.

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

Four ZRR project staff participated in four weeks of training (in two phases) on Holistic Land and Livestock Management (HLLM) conducted by project partner, the Africa Centre for Holistic Management (ACHM). The training focused on herd management, land planning for grazing, holistic grazing planning, low stress herding and humane handling, land monitoring and improving crop field soils. After being trained, Land O'Lakes field staff carried out community mobilizations to roll out the rangeland management strategy, so as to begin application of the HLLM training in FY13; 6,200 farmers will be reached by May 2014.

The project aimed to train 1,240 farmers on sustainable rangeland management by the end of September 2012 and to establish 100 hectares under improved land management; no trainings were conducted and no hectares were established in the 2012 fiscal year. During the fiscal year, field staff focused their efforts on community mobilizations, as the success of land management interventions depends heavily on community participation and buy-in. While this led to a short-term delay that put the project behind target in September 2012, ZRR expects to reach these targets in the coming fiscal year. Further, because added emphasis has been put on proper community mobilization, it is expected that this activity's outcomes will be more sustainable in the long-term.

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

So far, 58 Community Livestock Workers (CLWs) were identified for training and support, out of a target of 50. CLWs will be trained in November 2012 on a variety of topics, including goat health, goat marketing, goat nutrition and goat husbandry practices. These CLWs are expected to be fully operational by December 2012, providing support services to 2,000 farmers.

Further, the project targeted 1,891 women to be responsible for making household decisions in veterinary care and management of their goats by the end of September 2012. However, the target was not achieved, as trainings on veterinary care have not yet started. This target is expected to be met in the coming quarters.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Needs Assessment: During the quarter under review, Land O'Lakes completed a needs assessment in Matabeleland South and Manicaland provinces. Five districts were identified for activities, namely Mutare Rural, Makoni, Buhera, Bulilima and Mangwe.

The purpose of the assessment was to identify a potential partner of choice, who will administer an assessment on existing goat producer groups. ICRISAT and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) are both being considered for this role. Land O'Lakes engaged each group in meetings to map out potential areas

of collaboration. Potential partners identified existing producer groups that they were already supporting, and itineraries were drawn up. Assessments were conducted at 11 sites: seven of which were ICRISAT-affiliated and four of which were CRS-affiliated. Districts covered include Matobo, Gwanda, Insiza, Bulilima, Mangwe and Beitbridge.

Land O'Lakes chose CRS as the partner of choice, as activities were deemed to be the most complementary with those of the ZRR project. Land O'Lakes will leverage this partnership to build on and add value to existing platforms; for example, CRS has focused on installation of structures like dip tanks and sales pens – areas in which Land O'Lakes is skilled to provide training.

Stakeholder Engagement: Stakeholder engagement has been a strategic concentration during the current fiscal year. Land O'Lakes met Rural District Councils, Councilors, CRS, ORAP and other government departments in order to get recognition and seek areas to cooperate, to avoid targeting the same beneficiaries with the same interventions. Memoranda of Understanding were signed with all the district councils in the areas where the project is being implemented in order to reflect mutual intention to cooperate and coordinate activities. Building these relationships will best ensure the efficient and viable implementation of livestock development activities.

SECTION III: CHALLENGES AND LESSON LEARNED

ZRR has encountered a few unanticipated challenges and has worked to adapt plans and activities in response to these. First, the project has had difficulty in sourcing certified seed; ZRR has been able to acquire certified sugar graze and velvet bean seed but has not been able to source other varieties, such as sun hemp. Project staff are currently working to identify additional suppliers of certified seed, and will continue to source the available certified varieties in the meantime.

Further, the drought situation has made streams and rivers dry. Some areas have experienced water and feed shortages, most notably in Matebeleland South, where livestock owners have had to fetch water from the nearby boreholes for animals. The Government and FAO have intervened through subsidization of stock feed, bringing the price from \$0.36 per kg to \$0.12 per kg. Land O'Lakes has and will continue to encourage and train farmers to grow their own fodder, to help farmers best withstand shocks from drought in the future.

Another challenge has been in the application of rangeland management techniques; farmers from different projects sites are not keen to start applying concepts from ACHM's training. HLLM is a new innovation to many of these farmers, and because of the fear of spreading diseases, they are not yet comfortable combining their livestock. However, Land O'Lakes is organizing a "look and learn" visit for the local leadership from different project areas where the HLLM concept has been successfully applied. It is expected that this visit will lead to buy-in from local leaders, which will in turn improve the adoption of HLLM techniques.

Distances between goat producer groups has posed a challenge in the operation of and access to CLWs. With the geographically dispersion of farmers, ZRR discovered that it would not be realistic to plan for CLWs to visit all distant farms. To counter this, Land O'Lakes identified eight additional CLWs in these more distant areas. Additional goat producer groups were also formed (ten instead of the originally planned five), and CLWs from the corresponding new areas will be accessible to farmers.

Finally, the identification of a reliable supplier of movable kraals took longer than originally anticipated, as this is a newer innovation and there are a limited number of suppliers. ZRR was able to identify a supplier, and the movable kraals will be acquired in the coming fiscal year.

SECTION IV: NEXT STEPS AND CONCLUSION

NEXT STEPS

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

After registering the remaining 373 project beneficiaries to meet the 2,000 beneficiary target, ZRR will focus on trainings on goat husbandry, goat health and goat nutrition. Six hundred goats will be procured and distributed to farmers using a voucher system, where Land O'Lakes will contribute 80% and the farmer will contribute the remaining 20% toward the cost of the goat. The voucher will be redeemable at the local shops and will create a welcomed injection of liquidity into the rural economy.

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

The project will procure eight movable kraals, which will be piloted in different project areas. Each site will utilize these in their formation of community rangeland management strategies, based on the trainings and expertise provided by ACHM. In addition, exchange visits will be arranged to ensure that successful HLLM results are visible and seen as attainable within participating communities.

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

The project will train all 58 identified CLWs on goat production and rangeland management in November 2012. The CLWs will help in giving technical assistance to a targeted 2,000 farmers, through farmer visits and instruction on goat husbandry practices.

CONCLUSION

Land O'Lakes is on track with rapid start-up of the ZRR program. The baseline was completed and submitted to OFDA, and the work plan and PMP have been prepared and submitted. Five districts have been identified for activities following the needs assessment, and CRS has been identified as a project partner. Staff has organized several meetings with government departments as well as beneficiaries to improve stakeholder commitment to the project's objectives and to register target beneficiaries, of which over 80% of the 2,000 targeted have been registered in nine communities. Seeds have been distributed for the establishment of 16 demonstration plots in the coming rainy season. Almost a quarter of the 3,100 targeted farmers were trained on improved goat production, and ACHM trained four project staff on HLLM. Farmers will benefit from support on rangeland management by these staff in the next quarter. 58 CLWs were identified, and their training will be organized in the coming quarter.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE DATA TABLE

Zimbabwe Livestock for Accelerated Recovery and Improved Resiliency		Start Current Year	1 Oct 2011	Start Project	16 May 2012	Year	1	Current Work Plan Start date:
Agreement No.	AID-OFDA-G-12-00032	End Current Year	30-Sept-12	End Project	15 May 2014	Quarter	2	15 May 2012

No.	Performance Indicator (*)	Unit of Measure	Disaggregation	Remark	Baseline		FY1 - May-Sep 2012		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 benefiting from or affected by livestock activities	Number	Total	Annual Value	2012	0	620	0	6200	0	The target was not achieved because field staff spent more time than expected on ensuring stakeholder engagement and HLLM training
B	Number of people benefiting from livestock activities	# of individuals	Total, Gender	Annual Value	2012	0	1240	294M 423F	6200	717	The target was not achieved because field staff spent more time than expected on ensuring stakeholder engagement and HLLM training
C	Number of veterinary interventions, treatments or vaccinations administered	Number	Total	Cumulative	2012	0	0	0	2000	0	
D	Number of animals treated or vaccinated	Number	Total	Cumulative	2012	0	0	0	1500	0	

No	Performance Indicator (*)	Unit of Measure	Disaggregation	Remark	Baseline		FY1 - May-Sep 2012		Total		Comments
					Year	Value	Target	Actual	Target	Cumulative	
E	Number of individuals participating in disaster risk reduction activities	# of individuals	Total, age and gender, type of training, CLW, training of trainers, Farmer training	Cumulative	2012	0	1240	423 F 294M	6200	717	Same as above
F	Percentage of beneficiary households with improved productive asset base	Percentage	Total, Gender	Cumulative	2012	0%	0%	0	60%	0	
G	Percentage of beneficiary female headed households with improved productive asset base	Percentage	Total	Cumulative	2012	0%	0%	0	60%	0	
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	294M 423F	2000	717	Surpassed annual target
1.2	Average value of Assets (tools, Livestock, domestic) In targeted Participating Households	US\$	Total	Average	2012	1914	1914	1914	2070	1914	No other surveys were completed after the July baseline. There has been no change in value.
1.3	Number of households receiving goats from the program and participating in producer groups	Number	Total, gender	Annual Value	2012	0	0	0	600	0	
1.4	Number of goat producer groups formed or strengthened	Number	Total	Annual Value	2012	0	5	10	10	10	
1.5	Proportion of producer group membership comprised of females	Percentage	Total, gender	Cumulative	2012	0	20%	30%	30%	0	Surpassed the target. Beneficiary registration is still in progress

No	Performance Indicator (*)	Unit of Measure	Disaggregation	Remark	Baseline		FY1 - May-Sep 2012		Total		Comments
					Year	Value	Target	Actual	Target	Cumulative	
1.6	Number of producer groups linked to markets	Number	Total	Annual Value	2012	0	0	0	10	0	
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	0	0	50	0	58 identified for training and support
2.2	Number of individuals trained in improved farm and rangeland management techniques	# of individuals	Total, gender, type of training, CLW, TOT, Farmer training	Annual Value	2012	0	1240	0	6200	0	Field staff spent more time than expected on ensuring stakeholder engagement and HLLM training
2.3	Number of grazing management plans developed and utilized by communities	Number	Total	Annual Value	2012	0	0	0	6	0	
2.4	Communities applying improved farm and sustainable rangeland management techniques	Number	Total	Annual Value	2012	0	0	0	6	0	
2.5	Number of hectares (ha) under improved land management	Number	Total	Cumulative	2012	100	100	0	2000	0	Same as above
2.6	Percentage of community farmers applying improved farm and sustainable rangeland management techniques	Percentage	Total, gender	Cumulative	2012	0	0%	0	50%	0	
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	0	50	0	58 identified for training and support
3.2	Percentage of CLWs utilizing their training and	#of individuals	Total, gender	Cumulative	2012	0	0%	0	60%	0	

No	Performance Indicator (*)	Unit of Measure	Disaggregation	Remark	Baseline		FY1 - May-Sep 2012		Total		Comments
					Year	Value	Target	Actual	Target	Cumulative	
	skills to train farmers										
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	Training not yet underway. The project is in the process of identifying the CLWs who will help in training of the farmers in veterinary care
3.4	Number of households served by CLWs	# of HH	Total, gender	Annual Value	2012	0	0	0	2000	0	CLW training not yet underway. The project is still in the process of identifying the people to be CLWs