

**QUARTERLY TASK  
ORDER PROGRESS AND  
COST REPORT**

**JULY TO SEPTEMBER  
2001**

**PILOT PROGRAM TO  
DEVELOP LOCAL  
GOVERNANCE IN  
ZIMBABWE**

Prepared for



Prepared by

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Zimbabwe Pilot Program to Develop Local Governance  
U.S. Agency for International Development  
Contract No. LAG-I-00-99-00036-00, TO No. 805



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# QUARTERLY TASK ORDER PROGRESS AND COST REPORT

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2001

## PILOT PROGRAM TO DEVELOP LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN ZIMBABWE

**Contractor(s):** The Urban Institute  
**Task Order No.:** LAG-I-00-99-00036-00, TO No. 805  
**Date of Issuance:** June 5, 2001

### Task Order Description

This Task Order initiates a pilot program to assist at least four local authorities (at least three urban councils and one rural district council) in Zimbabwe to implement mechanisms for improving local governance. The program will provide small grants to local civil society organizations (CSOs), technical assistance to local authorities in more accountable financial management practices, train local authorities and CSOs in participatory local governance, and develop restructuring action plans for local government operations, particularly to improve own-source revenue generation and restructure council debt.

<b>Amount Obligated under Task Order:</b>	\$440,000
<b>Total Potential Task Order Amount:</b>	\$489,966
<b>Dollars Expended to-date:</b>	\$ 19,285

### Progress of major activities

Representatives of the Urban Institute (UI) Team in Zimbabwe, local government specialists Derek Gunby, Chief of Party (CoP) and Ramson Mbetu, Deputy CoP, are working closely with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing (MLGPWH) and other local counterparts. This quarter, UI also formally engaged local government specialists Agnes Zhou and Mona Munyikwa and municipal finance specialists Israel Ndlovu and Justus Mika for duration of the program.

The present political climate requires concerted efforts from the international and local team to maintain confidence. The program's budgetary planning was affected by the unprecedented 75 percent increase in fuel prices in June 2001 and recent dramatic increases in



food prices, as well as a foreign currency crisis and severe disruptions in the farming sector resulting from violent farmland seizures.

The Ministry of Local Government issued a Letter of Introduction for the Pilot Program in Local Governance (PPLG) to the pilot areas in September. The selection of authorities was amended this quarter. Pilot program local authorities now include Masvingo Municipality, Kariba Municipality, Gwanda Municipality, and the Chipinge Rural District Council (RDC), and Matuko RDC. The earlier selections of Bulawayo Municipality and Gweru have been postponed.

The Team completed a project implementation plan with key benchmark dates, performance indicators, and responsibilities. The Team has also drafted a letter of introduction regarding the program to the two local authorities' associations.

The Team met frequently throughout the quarter and completed an assessment of the environment for democratic local governance, a draft logical framework, more detailed activities planning, and initial performance indicators. The Team also planned initial meetings to all pilot sites, with the agenda of meeting the leading officials and political leadership of the local authority (Mayor, Chairman, etc.), to introduce the Team and the program's purpose and likely activities. The first meetings were also structured to help the Team identify areas that the local authority considers in need of change and improvement and potential partner CSOs.

All members of the Zimbabwe-based Team made an initial visit to Matuko Rural District Council in September. The Team was well received by the local authorities. The rural district council's personnel resources were evaluated, as were its financial resources. The RDC leadership asserted its corporate vision of inclusive planning and development processes, which will be supported by the PPLG. The Council also acknowledged the need for capacity building for executive staff, CSOs and politicians. Following this meeting, the Team will split into two teams to make visits to pilot sites.

### **Up-To-Date Schedule of Work**

- Early October—Trips to Chipinge, Kariba, Gwanda and Masvingo
- Also in October, UI Senior Fellow George Peterson and UI consultant Burgert Gildenhuys, a municipal finance specialist based in South Africa, will complete a needs assessment for training and assistance in municipal finance and to establish the potential procedures for improving accountability and transparency in the demonstration sites. They will participate in a municipal finance working group meeting at the end of October. They will administer informal training as time allows, working closely with the two municipal finance specialists on the Team, (Israel Ndlovu and Justus Mika) on collection of local budget data and other quantitative data, and conducting qualitative assessments of local finance officials' skills.



- UI project manager Rebecca Lawrence will travel to Zimbabwe to work with the local team in October and November, focusing on the grants program to civil society organizations and program management training and planning.
- Ramson Mbetu will become CoP of the program on October 8, upon the departure of Derek Gunby from Zimbabwe. Candidates for the positions of local government specialist and grants administration coordinator, which Mr. Mbetu previously held, are being interviewed.

**Administrative Data**

None

**ATTACHMENT**

**Cost Report**