



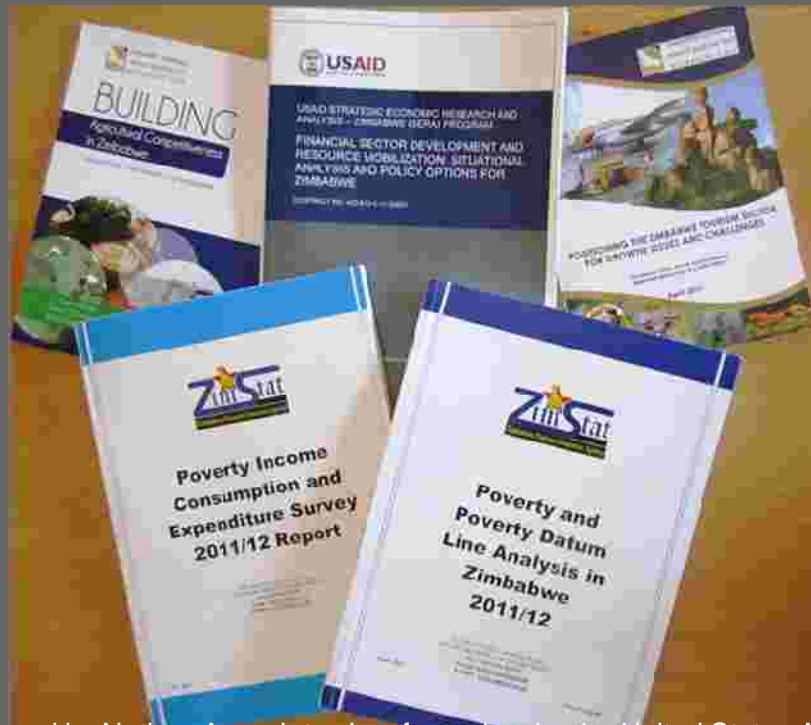
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USAID STRATEGIC ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS – ZIMBABWE (SERA) PROGRAM

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

PROGRAM QUARTER 7: APRIL-JUNE 2013

CONTRACT NO. AID-613-C-11-00001



This report was produced by Nathan Associates Inc. for review by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
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ACRONYM LIST

ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation
AfDB	African Development Bank
AMF	Anonymized Microdata Files
BOP	Balance of Payments
BPM	Balance of Payments Manual
BTS	Business Tendency Survey
CBR	Central Business Register
CIP	Census of Industrial Products
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COP	Chief of Party
COS	Census of Services
COTR/COR	Contracting Officer's Technical Representative/ Contracting Officer's Representative
CTC	Competition and Tariff Commission
DFID	Department for International Development
DG	Director General
DL	Distance Learning
DQR	Data Quality Review
ED	Executive Director
EG	Economic Growth
ESAMI	Eastern and Southern African Management Institute
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GOZ	Government of Zimbabwe
HCT	Hand-held Computer Technology
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Country
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IIP	International Investment Position
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LCP	Local Compensation Plan
LEDRIZ	Labor and Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEFMI	Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute
MEPIP	Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion
MMMD	Ministry of Mines and Mining Development
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MRIIC	Ministry of Regional Integration and International Cooperation
MTTA	Medium-Term Technical Assistance
PICES	Poverty, Income and Consumption Expenditure survey

PFM	Public Finance Management
QEI	Quarterly Employment Inquiry
QPR	Quarterly Performance Report
RA	Resident Advisor
RBZ	Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAPES	Southern African Political Economy Series
SAPST	Southern Africa Parliamentary Support Trust
SERA	Strategic Economic Research and Analysis
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SOW	Scope of Work
SS	Survey of Services
STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
TFTA	Tripartite Free Trade Area
TOT	Terms of Trade
TRALAC	Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UZ	University of Zimbabwe
VAT	Value Added Tax
VMI	Volume of Manufacturing Index
WB	World Bank
WEO	World Economic Outlook
ZADMO	Zimbabwe Aid and Debt Management Office
ZEPARU	Zimbabwe Economic Policy Analysis and Research Unit
ZIMACP	Zimbabwe Agricultural Competitiveness Program
ZIMRA	Zimbabwe Revenue Authority
ZIMSTAT	Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency

SERA HIGHLIGHTS – PROGRAM QUARTER 7

Assistance to ZEPARU

- Policy research: Continued progress on SERA-supported studies on financial sector development; one of the papers was presented to a stakeholders' seminar at the end of June, and three others will be presented to a workshop on July 25. Also, SERA made progress in planning STTA support to ZEPARU on (1) a country study for Tripartite Free Trade Area negotiations; (2) a study on reform of bankruptcy laws and procedures; and (3) a series of studies on private sector development.
- Research dissemination: Completion of website upgrade for ZEPARU, as their primary window for disseminating research products and offering stakeholders links to global resources on economics.
- In-country training of economists: Conducted two in-country training courses for economists: Advanced Excel Skills; and Regional Integration. Also, advanced planning for two short-courses scheduled for late July and early August, on Public Finance Management & Budget Control, and Applied Econometrics for Policy Research (both subsequently postponed due to conflict with election dates).
- Regional short-courses: Supported 17 economists to attend six regional short-courses offered by MEFMI, ESAMI, and TIPS. See text for details.
- Long-term training of economists: Second semester exams completed by 17 SERA-funded ZEPARU bursary recipients in the part-time M.Sc. program at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ), and submission of final thesis by 4 bursary recipients who have finished their final year of the program. Results on the exams and the thesis papers are due at the end of July.
- Parliamentarian training: Consultancy developed to draft an Economic Literacy "Tool-Kit" for program of training new parliamentarians following the election.

Assistance to ZIMSTAT

- Poverty, Income and Consumption Expenditure Survey (PICES): ZIMSTAT launched the final PICES reports on April 17. USAID SERA has been centrally involved in donor discussions with ZIMSTAT on developing methods and procedures for releasing "anonymized" microdata files from PICES (and other major economic surveys) for use by researchers.
- Central Business Register (CBR): ZIMSTAT completed processing data from the USAID SERA-funded field operation that created a comprehensive listing of 76,000 licensed businesses; the SERA office then completed negotiations with ZIMSTAT to fund the next stage of the CBR project, involving administration of the CBR questionnaire to all licensed businesses.
- Distance learning (DL): USAID SERA expert on distance learning completed training of four ZIMSTAT training officers, who proceeded to populate the new DL software platform with a pilot module for in-service training of statisticians in the provincial offices.

Assistance to the Ministry of Finance (MOF)

- With support from the SERA team, USAID negotiated an exchange of letters with the MOF to open a channel for direct SERA support to the Ministry, to supplement our assistance to ZEPARU. The SERA team will develop modalities for this new channel of activity in July.

INTRODUCTION

The USAID Strategic Economic Research and Analysis — Zimbabwe (SERA) Program contract took effect on October 1, 2011, with Nathan Associates Inc. (hereinafter “Nathan”) as the prime implementing partner, for a performance period of four years. USAID developed the SERA Program in partnership with the Ministry of Finance (MOF) with three Strategic Objectives, which may be summarized as follows:

1. Improved economic environment for inclusive growth through evidence-based policy analysis and research.
2. Strengthened capacity for policy development institutions.
3. Improved economic data for use by researchers, policy makers, and other stakeholders.

To achieve these objectives, the program is structured to produce four major results:

1. Improved human capacity for evidence-based economic policy analysis and policy management.
2. Strengthened institutional capacity in Government Departments for analyzing, adapting and implementing evidence-based economic policy options.
3. Strengthened research institutions providing analytical support to the economic policy process in response to needs of policy makers.
4. Improved quality, timeliness, and availability of economic data and statistics.

To produce these results the SERA contract specifies the following services and tasks:

1. Management and Administrative Services for assistance to a range of Government of Zimbabwe ministries, agencies, and civil society organizations, including, among other things, provision of short- and long-term technical advisors, research and training.
2. Technical Services for implementation of a demand-driven agenda to support the twin foci of policy reform and capacity development, including:
 - a. Assistance to the Zimbabwe Economic Policy Analysis & Research Unit (ZEPARU)
 - i. Research and Analysis
 - ii. Parliamentarian Training
 - iii. Training of Economists (short-term and long-term)
 - iv. Workshops (research dissemination and policy dialogue events)
 - b. Assistance to ZIMSTAT

In essence, our mandate is to deliver demand-driven support to strengthen human and institutional capacity for partner organizations; provide evidence-based research to the government in areas of vital policy concern; rebuild the statistical foundations for economic studies and policy management; and create platforms for research dissemination and public discussion of research findings, as a bridge from technical analysis to effective reform. Nathan has been pursuing these aims through the provision of technical and financial support to ZEPARU and ZIMSTAT as our principal partner organizations. A major development during the quarter under review has been negotiation between USAID and the MOF to establish a new channel for direct SERA support to the Ministry (see Section 2).

The present Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) covers SERA Program Quarter 7, April-June, 2013. The report discusses progress on each of the Services and Tasks cited above, challenges faced, and plans for the next quarter. Annex 1 reports on adherence through Quarter 7 to the tasks and activities outlined in our approved Work Plan for Year 2. Annex 2 provides the latest update of the Performance Monitoring Indicators from our revised Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, as approved by USAID in September 2012. Annex 3 reports on our six-month ex-post evaluation surveys of knowledge retention and on-the-job utilization from USAID-SERA supported training for economists. Finally, Annex 4 presents a note from the SERA COP to ZIMSTAT suggesting techniques and procedures for allowing researchers to have access to micro-level data files from surveys such as PICES.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

For this first program component, Nathan activity during the reporting period focused on management and administration of operations, fulfillment of reporting requirements, and planning for the management transition that is scheduled to take place at the end of Year 2.

Management and Administration of Operations

Management and administration of SERA Program operations continued to proceed smoothly during this quarter. Recurrent tasks included maintenance of accounts and records, timely payment of wages and payroll taxes, management of our equipment inventory, and ensuring compliance with USAID regulations on procurements and activities. Nathan headquarters again provided efficient backstopping in the areas of contract administration, recruitment of consultants, financial management, and reporting.

Maintaining full and open communications with USAID/Harare is a critical and on-going element of our field operation. During the first two months of the quarter, the SERA Chief of Party (COP) and Resident Advisor (RA) held regular bi-weekly meetings with USAID's Contract Office Representative (COR), Joshua Smith, to discuss all aspects of program implementation. USAID's EG Team Leader, Dr. Tina Dooley-Jones participated in several of these meetings, as did Mr. Bigbuoy Chikwavarara, who has been designated as Activity Manager for the SERA-funded bursary program and our Parliamentary training activities. For the final month of the quarter the COR was on leave, so meetings were not held; however, the COP maintained regular communication during this period with the Alternate COR, John Macy.

This component also entails management and administration of all programmatic activities in collaboration with our primary partner organizations, ZEPARU and ZIMSTAT. Concomitant tasks include developing and supervising STTA assignments, training events, equipment procurements, and workshops or conferences. These activities are captured in technical sections below (see sections 3 and 4) and the agenda of activities that are under development for following quarter (see section 8).

Two special issues were addressed during the quarter under review.

- Program restructuring discussions. Previous QPRs noted that the absorptive capacity at ZEPARU has been a major challenge for program implementation. Near the end of the previous quarter the COR raised the issue of a program modification to provide direct support to the Ministry of Finance (MOF). The SERA RA then established that senior officials at the MOF had a high level of interest in this modification. The COP and RA also explained to the Executive Director at ZEPARU the motivation for this new option and the fact that it would supplement our activities with ZEPARU. A meeting on this issue between USAID and the MOF was held on May 16, with support from the SERA COP. The result was an agreement that USAID and the MOF would exchange formal letters to provide a documentary basis for activating this new channel for

program activity. This exchange was completed in June, along with affirmation from the RCO that direct support to the Ministry is consistent with the SERA Program contract. The SERA team will meet with MOF officials early in Q8 to explain the procedures and regulations governing the provision of technical or financial assistance through USAID SERA.

Subsequent Quarterly Progress Reports and our Work Plan for Year 3 will include activities involving direct assistance to the Ministry of Finance, as appropriate.

- VAT refunds. At the end of Q7, Nathan Associates had received only two VAT refunds from the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA), covering claims for our operations in Harare through March 2012. This leaves unpaid more than a full year of subsequent monthly claims for VAT refunds. These refunds are required to reimburse Nathan for VAT incurred on local expenses, and which could not be invoiced to USAID. Through Q7, Nathan had nearly \$17,000 in refund claims outstanding – in effect providing an involuntary zero-interest loan to the Government of Zimbabwe (or to the U.S. Embassy, if any of the refunds had reached that stage of payment). The SERA Program Manager will continue to communicate with USAID’s finance office to facilitate this process.

Finally, on the human resource side, Ms. Zey Akalin has replaced Ms. Fiona McDonald as Project Coordinator for SERA. Ms. Akalin was previously substituting in this position during maternity leave for Fiona McDonald.

Reports

During Quarter 7, Nathan Associates complied with all periodic reporting requirements, including submission of the quarterly financial report, monthly activities calendars, and the quarterly accrual report, among others. We also submitted periodic “bullets” on program highlights as warranted by activities.

Planning for the Management Transition

In accordance with Nathan’s Technical Proposal and the approved SERA program budget, Bruce Bolnick will complete his two-year assignment as Chief of Party on 30 September (the end of Year 2). Dr. Bolnick will be available thereafter for intermittent STTA assignments in support of the program. Daniel Ndlela’s position as Resident Advisor to ZEPARU also ends at that time. Again in accordance with the Technical Proposal and program budget, Dr. Ndlela will replace Dr. Bolnick as COP for the remainder of the program performance period. This change in Key Personnel was approved by the USAID Contract Office on June 3rd, 2013. To facilitate the transition, Dr. Bolnick has been involving Dr. Ndlela in all aspects of program management.

During Q7, Nathan headquarters continued to analyze several options for ensuring adequate support for Dr. Ndlela when he takes over as COP. At the end of Q7, these discussions were still under review at Nathan headquarters. Nathan will make a decision well before the end of Q8, to ensure a seamless and effective transition to the new management structure at the beginning of Year 3.

The COP and RA have also been discussing with ZEPARU and USAID the idea of engaging a distinguished local or regional economist to provide intermittent medium-term technical assistance (MTTA) to ZEPARU during Year 3 in place of the RA position. The objective for this assignment would be to continue providing senior-level support to ZEPARU for mentoring and training research staff, quality control of technical products, and advising on institutional management. In June, local subcontractor Imani Development nominated for this assignment a leading local economist with an outstanding research record and deep international experience. Nathan will submit an approval request for this assignment before the end of Q8.

TECHNICAL SERVICES: ASSISTANCE TO ZEPARU

This section reviews SERA support to ZEPARU during Quarter 7 under four sub-components: research and analysis; training for Parliamentarians; training of economists (short term and long term); and workshops and other research dissemination events.

A major element of our assistance to ZEPARU continues to be Daniel Ndlela's service as full-time Resident Advisor. In this capacity, Dr. Ndlela provides assistance in the development of ZEPARU research activities, mentoring and training for the research staff, quality control of technical products, and advising on institutional management, including considerable support for ZEPARU efforts to develop procedures for outsourcing research.

Nathan also continues to engage a junior economist who is seconded full-time to ZEPARU as Training Coordinator to help manage their training activities, workshops and research dissemination events, especially those supported by SERA. In addition, the Training/M&E Coordinator at the SERA office devotes approximately 70% of her time to supporting ZEPARU-related activities.

During the quarter, the SERA RA and COP continued to meet regularly with the Executive Director (ED) of ZEPARU. These meetings addressed the agenda for USAID SERA support; implementation arrangements for these activities; a variety of technical issues relating to ZEPARU research and training; monitoring progress with SERA-supported activities; and problem solving as needed.

Research and Analysis

For this sub-component, our attention during the quarter focused on four major activities: SERA-supported ZEPARU studies; funding of outsourced research; a study on institutional sustainability for ZEPARU; website development and public information on research products.

- SERA-supported ZEPARU studies:
 - Financial Sector studies. This activity has involved a suite of five studies on financial sector issues by ZEPARU researchers and external Research Associates under the guidance, mentorship and supervision of USAID SERA consultant Daniel Makina (through subcontractor Imani Development). This approach to capacity building is analogous to having a dissertation advisor assisting protégés to develop research skills.

These studies were scheduled for completion in Q7, but will now be finished in Q8; ZEPARU will hold a full-day stakeholders' validation workshop on July 25, for presentation of the studies. Table 1 lists the studies and their status at the end of Q7.

Table 1. SERA-supported Financial Sector Studies by ZEPARU

<p>Paper 1: The Role of the Financial Sector in the Economy: An Evaluation of Enhancement Measures for Zimbabwe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status at end of Q7: Draft reviewed by Consultant. Researchers are working on revisions to address his comments.
<p>Paper 2: Financial Liberalization and Crises: Experiences and Lessons for Zimbabwe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status at end of Q7: Draft not yet sent to Consultant for review.
<p>Paper 3: Financial Inclusion Initiatives for Making Financial Markets Work for the Poor in Zimbabwe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status at end of Q7: Draft reviewed by Consultant. He judged it to be very weak and recommended a complete revamping. Given the importance of this topic and inexperience of the study team, he suggests his own direct involvement as co-author

for the revision. This will be a new agreement for services of the consultant.
<p>Paper 4: Financial Regulation and Supervision in Zimbabwe: An Evaluation of Adequacy and Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status at end of Q7: Draft reviewed by Consultant. He judged it to be fairly well done but lacking in depth on policy options; Consultant provided further material on the issues. Researchers working on revisions to address his comments.
<p>Paper 5: Access to Bank Credit as a Strategy to Re-Industrialisation in Zimbabwe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status at end of Q7: Draft reviewed by Consultant and by SERA COP, and presented to stakeholders at a ZEPARU Seminar on June 27. Researchers working on revisions to address comments.

- Capital account liberalization. This study began in November 2012, but progress was delayed due to other assignments for the lead author. The study is being written by ZEPARU researcher Sehliselo Mpofu, with guidance, mentorship and supervision from USAID SERA consultant Keith Jefferis, through our subcontractor Econsult. Dr. Mpofu submitted a draft for reviewed by Dr. Jefferis in June. (It was also reviewed by the SERA COP). The paper should be completed in July or early August.
- Zimbabwe Country Study on Negotiations for the Trilateral Free Trade Area (TFTA). This study was under development since April in response to a Concept Note from the Ministry of Regional Integration and International Cooperation (MRIIC), through ZEPARU. SERA proposed revisions to the Concept Note to eliminate a slant towards endorsing protectionism, and proposed consultant Dr. Robert Kirk to assist the study team on the mentorship model. ZEPARU and the MRIIC accepted both proposals. Nathan submitted the Approval Request to USAID at the end of June (which was approved in early July). The study will commence in mid-July.
- Modernization of Laws and Procedures for Resolving Insolvencies. Discussions on this study began in April with submission of a Concept Note from the Competition and Trade Commission, through ZEPARU. The CTC has a compelling interest in this issue because many submissions on tariff changes from the private sector involve requests for protection by companies unable to restructure due to weak balance sheets. The Chairman recognizes that protective tariffs are antithetical to his job in promoting competition, and that bankruptcy reform can offer an alternative path for troubled companies to restructure as going concerns (if they have a viable business model). SERA proposed revisions to the Concept Note, taking into account lessons from recent Nathan experience with this issue in Mozambique. Through subcontractor Imani, we proposed a leading local expert on bankruptcy to mentor the study team. The study was initially planned to begin in June, but the consultant had to drop out due to other commitments. At the end of the quarter, Nathan had identified several international experts on bankruptcy reform for consideration. An Approval Request for this study will be submitted in July.
- Suite of studies on Private Sector Development. In May, the ZEPARU ED informed the SERA RA that ZEPARU is planning a series of in-house studies on private sector development, tentatively including: enhancing women's market access; understanding barriers to private sector growth; the role of financial intermediation in PSD; cluster development and SME development; women in business, with a special focus on SMEs, the role of ICT in PSD, and competitiveness. ZEPARU requested SERA support in providing STTA to mentor and

supervise the respective research teams. At the end of the quarter, the SERA team was compiling CVs for discussion with ZEPARU.

Another notable development in Q7 related to the ZEPARU study on Mining Sector Policy, headed by SERA consultant Paul Jourdan. Earlier this year the Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development (MMMD) engaged Dr. Jourdan as their lead consultant for preparing a new Minerals Policy and a new Mines and Minerals Act. In May, the MMMD published a Draft Minerals Policy, incorporating many important policy recommendations from the ZEPARU study. These policies were also highlighted by the Deputy Prime Minister in a Keynote Speech to the Annual General Meeting of the Chamber of Mines in May.

In addition to providing technical assistance for the research, USAID SERA has also provided funding to ZEPARU for printing SERA-supported studies. During Q7, we funded the publication of two major policy papers on Building Agricultural Competitiveness in Zimbabwe: Lessons from the International Perspective, and Positioning the Tourism Sector for Growth. Two other SERA-supported research products were at the printer getting type-set for publication: the study on Mining Sector Policy, and the study on Choice of Future Currency Regime. ZEPARU distributes these hard-copy studies to government officials, libraries, and stakeholders participating in seminars and workshops.

- Outsourced research. An important element of our contractual mandate for supporting ZEPARU is to provide funding for outsourced research (as “paying agent”) and technical assistance for developing and managing outsourcing arrangements. In Q7 this activity continued to move very slowly despite considerable assistance from SERA. The COP and RA began discussions with ZEPARU on outsourcing back in January 2012. First steps were taken in Q4, when SERA assisted ZEPARU with drafting a scope of work (SOW) for a local research organization, LEDRIZ, to carry out a study on the Economics of Employment. During Q5 and Q6, SERA aided ZEPARU in negotiating the contract with LEDRIZ, which was signed in February. The contract called for the report to be finished in April, but the time frame had to be extended due to implementation delays. LEDRIZ finally submitted a draft for review by ZEPARU and SERA at the end of June. Unfortunately, the product as submitted does not conform to requirements of the contract between LEDRIZ and ZEPARU or the parallel agreement between SERA and ZEPARU. ZEPARU will be discussing this problem with LEDRIZ in July. It is possible, even likely, that the contract will be cancelled due to non-compliance.

At the end of Q6, ZEPARU completed a lengthy process of technical evaluation for 26 proposals received for outsourced research on four industrial value chains: chemical industries; textiles and clothing; agro-industries, beverages and tobacco; and engineering and metal products. Early in Q7, ZEPARU sent letters to the top-ranked bidders for each study soliciting full cost proposals, along with guidance provided by SERA on USAID regulations on eligibility for funding. The SERA COP and Program Manager then provided detailed comments to ZEPARU on the cost proposals, after a due-diligence analysis of the budgets revealed that major budget revisions were required. ZEPARU conveyed these comments to the lead offerors in late May, pursuant to contract negotiation. At that point, one organization dropped out because the proposed team members were no longer available. For the other three studies, ZEPARU received revised budgets and documentation required to assess the cost structure. In all three cases, the labor costs did not comply with the criteria of realism and reasonableness. At the end of Q7 the SERA team was waiting for documentation of the labor costs, based on Forms 1420 for members of each research team. (We received the forms in early July, and they confirmed the need for modification of the labor costs for all three studies.) We now anticipate that the negotiations will conclude for three of the outsourced studies in early Q8, with implementation to begin shortly thereafter. Each study is targeted for

completion in three months. The fourth study (textiles and clothing) will be delayed because ZEPARU has to begin negotiation with the bidder who was runner-up in the technical evaluation.

Looking ahead to Q8, the SERA team and ZEPARU have discussed plans to commission a set of outsourced studies on Inclusive Growth. The SERA RA is assisting with the development of this research plan, with the intention of beginning the process after ZEPARU finishes negotiations on the industrial value chain studies. In light of experience with the latter studies, ZEPARU intends to pursue the research on Inclusive Growth by inviting proposals rather than issuing a public call for proposals.

- Sustainability study. In Q5, the SERA RA identified an outstanding consultant, Stephen Yeo, to conduct a study on institutional and financial sustainability for ZEPARU. The Scope of Work for this task was finalized last December and approved by USAID in January, including a LCP salary waiver. Mr. Yeo began working on the study in February from London, and travelled to Harare in March for intensive field interviews. His draft report was submitted at the end of May for review and comments from ZEPARU and SERA. At the end of Q7 the final report was well overdue; the study should be completed before the end of July. (Note: the revised study was received on July 19, for final review.)

One early result from the sustainability study was an agreement for SERA to sponsor Dr. Chigumira to attend a workshop on Leadership Excellence that was conducted by the Institute of Directors in Zimbabwe on April 8-10 at Victoria Falls. As a condition of this support Dr. Chigumira agreed to submit a report on the conference and its relevance to ZEPARU in terms of new information on tools, approaches or concepts for strengthening the management of ZEPARU and leadership on economic policy research. At the end of quarter this report had not yet been delivered.

- Website development and Public information. The ZEPARU website has to serve as the organization's primary interface with stakeholders and the world at large. As of mid-2012, the website could not fulfill this function due to technical limitations and design deficiencies. In Q4, SERA supported the development of specifications for a major upgrade of the website. In Q5 we funded a website development specialist to implement the upgrade, and a second expert to help ZEPARU oversee this work and deal with troubleshooting. When the website design and development was finished in early March, Nathan engaged a local consultant to populate the website with links to documents on the Zimbabwe economy, development think tanks around the world, research websites, data sets, and blogs by leading development economists – in addition to promoting ZEPARU's own research products. The content development was finished in mid-April. Since that time ZEPARU has been planning a formal launch of the website, but they are waiting to receive print copies of several SERA-supported research papers for public release at the same time.

The absence to date of a public announcement about the new website is characteristic of ZEPARU's weakness in public relations. Since the beginning of 2013, SERA has been endeavoring to improve their PR practices. Through the COR, we arranged a seminar for ZEPARU by the Public Affairs office at the U.S. Embassy in January. Later we assisted them in drafting their first press release, relating to the Makina study on Financial Sector Development, and vetting it with the embassy Public Affairs office. ZEPARU, however, chose not to issue the press release, again with the intention of combining press coverage of several published studies at one time. ZEPARU also drafted press releases for several other studies in preparation for that event (which should take place in Q8). In contrast to the slow progress in issuing press releases, ZEPARU has taken steps to get media coverage of their research seminars and workshops. ZEPARU invited representatives from two newspapers to their tourism workshop at the end of March; this resulted in one press report on April 1 in NewsDay,

focused very narrowly on the effect of police roadblocks on tourism. However, the ZEPARU research seminar on Access to Credit, on June 27, received front-page coverage in the Herald as well as television coverage. This was an important milestone for ZEPARU in cultivating media and public relations.

Beyond these primary activities, SERA continues funding three interns with masters' degrees in economics, on one-year assignments to assist with ZEPARU's research and analysis activities. This activity combines research support, capacity building, and training.

Finally, under the contract provision for "assistance to a range of Government of Zimbabwe ministries, agencies and civil society organizations," the COP reviewed for MEFMI four papers that are intended for a book on Economic Management under Hyperinflationary Environment: Lessons from Zimbabwe. The four papers were on: (1) Monetary Policy, 2000-2010; (2) The Response of the Manufacturing Sector to the Zimbabwe Economic Crisis; (3) Management of Public Debt During the Hyperinflation Period; and (4) Pension Industry Experience during Hyperinflation.

Training Parliamentarians

Although our support for economics literacy training of Parliamentarians continued to develop slowly during the quarter, there was significant progress. The SERA team reached agreement in June with ZEPARU and the Southern Africa Parliamentary Support Trust (SAPST) on a Scope of Work for a consultant to assist ZEPARU and SAPST in preparing a "Tool Kit" on Economic Literacy, as the basis for initiating the proposed training program once the new Parliament has been convened and committee assignments determined. (See the previous QPR for details on the proposed program.) This approach follows a suggestion from the Clerk of Parliament, who decided during Q6 that the training program itself should be deferred to the next Parliament. We aim to have a draft of the Tool Kit by the end of August, for presentation to a workshop to be scheduled with Parliamentary leaders, to launch the training program and finalize the training plan.

Training of Economists (short-term)

In early 2013, ZEPARU prepared a Training Program for the calendar year drawing on results of a Consultative Workshop on Training Needs of Key Economic Ministries, which ZEPARU convened last October, with USAID SERA funding. The first outcome was a customized two-day short-course in January, 2103, on Advanced Excel Skills, in response to an urgent request from the Zimbabwe Aid and Debt Management Office (ZADMO) in the MOF. A third session of this course was conducted on April 23-24, attended by 12 participants from the MOF, MEPIP, RBZ and ZEPARU, including 7 women. We intend to repeat this popular training several more times depending on the demand from our partner organizations.

Also during Q7, the SERA team collaborated with ZEPARU and government partners to develop and recruit facilitators for four new in-country short-courses:

- **Regional Integration Negotiations.** This course was not initially on ZEPARU's training plan for 2013, but was developed in response to a request from the MRIIC for training in preparation for Zimbabwe's participation in the TFTA negotiations. The one-week course was developed and conducted by experts on trade and regional integration from the Trade Law Centre in Cape Town: Professor Gerhard Erasmus and Dr. Trudi Hartzenberg. The course objective was to assist the MRIIC and other government partners in understanding the regional trade negotiations agenda with a focus on the TFTA, and implications of Zimbabwe's overlapping membership in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA). The course included modules on legal aspects of the regional trade agreements, the economics of regional integration (including gender effects of trade liberalization), and negotiation strategies. It

was held in Kadoma on June 3-7 with 26 participants (9 women) representing the MRIIC, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Attorney General's office, the Ministry of Agriculture, MEPIP, the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority, the CTC, and three private sector economists.

- Public Finance Management and Budget Control. The MOF is the primary client for this course. In February, Nathan identified a highly experienced PFM consultant and trainer, Steven Peterson, to develop and conduct the course. Dr. Peterson proposed a detailed agenda for a two-week course. The Ministry approved the consultant, but requested a one-week limit to the training. The Ministry assigned an official to review the proposed curriculum and identify priorities to fit the shorter time frame. After two months awaiting this feedback from the Ministry, we asked the consultant to produce a one-week proposal reflecting his sense of the priority topics. The Ministry then agreed to run the course from August 5-9 (venue to be determined), but the decision of the Constitutional Court to hold the election on July 31 necessitates rescheduling. This decision will be made as early as possible in Q8.
- Applied Econometrics for Policy Research. This course originated with a request from the Economic Research and Policy Enhancement Division of RBZ. The RBZ officials are seeking to strengthen capacity at RBZ for serious economic research. Therefore they seek a two-week course in applied econometrics that goes beyond the material covered in MEFMI's standard regional training on this topic. At the end of Q6, Nathan had identified a highly experienced consultant for this purpose, Professor Paul McNelis from Fordham University, who would be available to offer the course beginning July 29. Here, too, the Constitutional Court ruling to hold the election on July 31 will necessitate rescheduling. This decision will be made as early as possible in Q8.
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects. The MEPIP is the primary client for this course. Here, too, Nathan identified a highly qualified consultant in February, and discussions began at that time on the course objectives and content. After delays in approval for the consultant by the Ministry, the consultant submitted a proposal for the course curriculum in May. This was followed by further delays in getting feedback from the Ministry on this proposal. At the end of June, the consultant indicated that she will no longer be available to undertake this assignment. Plans for this course are therefore on hold pending the identification of another expert to facilitate this training.

In addition to developing and customizing these in-country short-courses, USAID SERA continued to sponsor economists nominated by ZEPARU to attend external short-courses of special value to our partner organizations. During Q7 USAID SERA supported 17 economists (including 6 women) to attend a total of six regional training opportunities:

- MEFMI regional course on Fiscal Policy and Aid Coordination, 8-19 April in Kampala, Uganda. The beneficiaries for this course were
 - Mrs. Ratidzai Mutonono, Principal Economist – Ministry of Finance
 - Mr. Gamuchirai Chiwunze, Research Fellow – ZEPARU

This 10-day training was targeted to mid-level and senior staff working in the area of external debt management. The course was designed for middle to senior level economists in the Ministries of Finance and Planning and Central Banks' research departments who are involved in the formulation and implementation of fiscal policies. The course addressed fiscal policy options, major elements of the fiscal system, and the role of fiscal policies in macroeconomic management.

- ESAMI regional course on Engendering National Budgets, 15-26 April in Arusha, Tanzania. The beneficiaries for this course were:

- Ms. Ms. Rumbidzai Nyaruwe, Senior Economist, Budget Department, Recurrent Expenditure Division, MOF
- Mr. Razaro Mazarire, Principal Economist, Budget Department, Capital Expenditure Division, MOF
- Mrs. Evengelista Mudzonga, ZEPARU Research Fellow.

This 10-day training provided knowledge and skills to development experts and planners on how to engender national policies, national budgets, and development planning as a whole. The coverage included analysis of policies for gender gaps; gender analysis of budgets; formulation of gender sensitive sector policies, and incorporating gender sensitivity in Poverty Reduction Strategies.

- ESAMI regional course on Advanced Public Sector Financial Management, 15-26 April in Mombasa, Kenya. The beneficiaries for this course were
 - Mr. Brian Goredema, Acting Chief Economist - Budgets Department, Recurrent Expenditure Division, MOF
 - Mr. Peter Makore, Senior Economist – Budgets Department, Public Sector Investment Programmes (Capital Expenditure), MOF
 - Mr. Misheck Chingwalo, Principal Accountant – Implementation & Control of Expenditure Unit, MOF

This 10-day course provided Senior Managers and Senior Finance Officers in the public sector with specific knowledge and skills for strategic policy designs and coordination relating to public financial procurement & management. Topics included, among other things: evaluation of alternative financing policies for infrastructure and service delivery; alternative mechanisms for the finance of public sector programmes, including Private-Public Partnerships; evaluation of “out-sourcing” methods; and economic and financial evaluation of alternative sources of external financing.

- TIPS regional course on Introduction to CGE Modelling with GAMS, 13-18 May 2013 in Pretoria, South Africa. The beneficiaries for this course were
 - Ms Erinah Chipumho - Senior Research Fellow, ZEPARU
 - Mr. Sanderson Abel - Senior Research Fellow, ZEPARU
 - Ms Evangelista Mudzonga - Research Fellow, ZEPARU

This 6-day training aimed to develop professional expertise in understanding general equilibrium modeling, including both the potential and limitations of these tools. The course integrated theory, real world data, hands-on computer work, and real world applications, including an introduction to GAMS software. It included a review of micro, macro and trade theories that underlie typical CGE models, and offered an overview with practical examples of Social Accounting Matrices (SAMs) and of parameter and elasticity estimation methods.

- MEFMI regional course on Advanced Macroeconomic Analysis and Training, 13-24 May, 2013 in Kigali, Rwanda. The beneficiaries for this course were
 - Mr. Noel Machinjike, Senior Economist - Fiscal Policy & Advisory Services, MOF
 - Ms. Georgina Shadaya, Economist - Fiscal Policy & Advisory Services, MOF
 - Mr. Chamunorwa Nyamuranga, Senior Economist - Economic Affairs and Modeling, MEPIP
 - Mr. Cornelius Dube, Senior Research Fellow, ZEPARU

This 10-day training was designed for middle to senior level economists in the Ministries of Finance, Economic Planning and Central Banks who are responsible for policy management, implementation, and analysis and monitoring. The course provided participants with analytical skills to fully analyse policy options and trade-offs for sound macroeconomic management.

- MEFMI regional course on Balance of Payments Manual v.6, 17-28 June, 2013 in Maseru, Lesotho. The beneficiaries for this course were
 - Mr. Willie Nakunyada, Chief Economist - Economic Research and Policy Division, RBZ
 - Mr. Farai Masendu, Division Chief - Exchange Control Division, RBZ

This 10-day training was designed for middle to senior level economists in the Ministries of Finance, Economic Planning and Central Banks and Statistical Offices involved in BOP/IIP compilation, economic analysis, policy design and implementation and monitoring. The course objective was to build capacity in the compilation and analysis of BOP statistics and International Investment Position (IIP) using the IMF Balance of Payments Manual v.6. It further sought to assist member countries to migrate to BPM 6 and improve compliance on Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) and General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) statistics benchmarks.

As a condition of USAID SERA sponsorship for these external training courses, each participant has submitted a short report to ZEPARU and SERA on the course highlights and main lessons learned. These reports are available on request from the USAID SERA office. Participants also agree to provide briefings for their colleagues if requested to do so by their superiors.

In addition, every economist who benefits from USAID SERA sponsorship for training agrees to complete an evaluation questionnaire six months after the event, providing data on knowledge retention and on-the-job utilization of the training. Annex 3 presents a tabulation of main results from the ex-post surveys and reports consolidating the results for SERA-supported training activities in October, November and December of 2012.

Finally, during this quarter the MOF informed the SERA RA that the IMF is now handling training on financial programming and the macroeconomic framework, through their Afritac/South office in Mauritius. Therefore USAID SERA will not organize new courses in this area for the government's macroeconomic working group. We remain open, however, to collaborating with the IMF for co-financing their training activities. Also, ZEPARU remains interested in SERA support for training on financial programming and macro modeling for their research fellows; nothing specific, however, has been arranged to date.

Training of Economists (long-term)

SERA support for the long-term training of economists through the ZEPARU Economic Scholars Program continued in Quarter 8 through funding bursaries for 17 government economists who are pursuing the part-time M.Sc. program in Economics at the University of Zimbabwe. This includes 8 economists from the MOF, 3 from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, 2 each from ZIMRA and the Ministry of State Enterprises, and 1 each from MEPIP and RBZ. Details of the bursary coverage have been explained in previous QPRs.

Four of the bursary recipients completed their third and final year of this program by submitting their research theses in May. If their research papers are approved, the candidates will be eligible to retain the laptop computers provided by the SERA program to assist them in their studies, subject to approval by USAID (still pending at the end of the quarter, and approved in July). The Economics Department expects to inform all of the students of their results by the end of July.

For the M.Sc. program at UZ, the SERA contract provides for twenty bursaries, and states that “bursaries not awarded in any given year may be awarded in a subsequent year.” If all four third-year students complete the program, as is likely, we will have 13 ongoing bursaries. We have therefore informed ZEPARU and the ministries that we are open to supporting up to 7 new ZEPARU scholars for the new academic year that begins in August. We have also emphasized at every opportunity our strong preference for supporting women in this program. Over the past year, only one woman has been receiving support, after 3 others dropped out, for reasons explained in earlier QPRs.

The SERA program also has provision to fund ZEPARU bursaries for up to five economists to pursue Ph.D. programs in economics at the University of Cape Town or “a relevant degree program at another academic institution” in the region. During Q5 and Q6,¹ SERA agreed on funding for four Ph. D. bursary candidates who were nominated through ZEPARU:

- Mr. Nebson Mupunga, Principal Economist and Deputy Division Chief of the Economic Research Division at RBZ. Mr Mupunga is pursuing the part-time Ph.D. program in economics at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. His dissertation research proposal focused on “Simulation analysis of optimal public debt management policies in low income countries: The case of Zimbabwe.”
- Mr. Prudence Stephen Moyo, Senior Economist, Economic Research Division, RBZ. Mr. Moyo is pursuing the M.Phil/Ph.D. programme in Economics at the University of Pretoria. Under this program his first year consists of M.Phil. courses in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and Econometrics. Upon successful completion of these courses he will focus on dissertation research, on a topic to be determined at that time.
- Mr. William Kavila, Chief Economist, Economic Research & Policy Enhancement Division, RBZ. Mr. Kavila is pursuing the part-time PhD in Economics at NMMU in Port Elizabeth. His proposed dissertation topic is on “Zimbabwe: From High Inflation to Hyper-Inflation, 1980-2012.”
- Mr. Bothwell Nyajena, Principal Economist, External Debt, Aid and Analysis Section, MOF. Mr. Nyajena secured admission to the full time Ph.D. in Economics program at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

At the end of Q7 Mr Mupunga and Mr Moyo were progressing well on their programs, and Mr Kavila was revising his research plan at the request his supervision committee. Unfortunately, Mr Nyajena did not obtain approval for study leave from the Ministry of Public Service, even though he had formal endorsement from his supervisors and the Human Resource department at the MOF. Being unable to attend required courses for the first semester, he therefore withdrew from the ZEPARU bursary. As a result, we are now supporting only three Ph.D candidates, all from RBZ. The SERA program office – especially our Training/M&E Coordinator, Emmanuella Matorofa – has been working closely with these three candidates to ensure that all procedures are followed, all logistical requirements are met, and all necessary payments are made.

Workshops and Other Research Dissemination Events

ZEPARU made no requests to USAID SERA during Q7 for funding workshops or research dissemination events. Similarly, no there was progress during the quarter, other than some discussion in principal, on

¹ Induction of Ph.D. bursary recipients could begin only in Year 2 because the academic year in South Africa starts in February of each year, and there was not enough time during our start-up period in Year 1 for economists from our partner organizations to apply for and gain admission to any of the programs.

planning an International Economics Conference for later in 2013. We are keeping this issue on the agenda for discussion with ZEPARU during Q8.

ZEPARU did conduct one Research Seminar, on June 27, for presentation of a study on Access to Bank Credit as a Strategy to Re-Industrialisation in Zimbabwe, which USAID SERA supported through technical reviews by consultant Daniel Makina and COP Bruce Bolnick. For the seminar itself, ZEPARU tapped funding from their ACBF program. The seminar was very well attended and characterized by active discussion of the issue (including participation by the SERA COP and RA). As noted in Section 3, ZEPARU organized effective media coverage for the Seminar including prominent stories in the Herald and on local television. The SERA team has been providing assistance and guidance to ZEPARU to improve public information management and research dissemination. The Access to Credit seminar is the first event since SERA began for which ZEPARU achieved wide coverage through the media to inform the public about a research product. We anticipate that this will be a regular feature of future workshops and seminars.

Aside from ZEPARU events – under the contract provision for “assistance to a range of Government of Zimbabwe ministries, agencies and civil society organizations” – the RA and COP participated actively in several other policy dialogue events during the quarter.

- On April 12, the COP and the RA were involved in a workshop on regional integration presented by TRALAC in collaboration with Shalom Fiscal Consultants and the Ministry of Regional Integration. Dr. Ndlela opened the workshop, and Dr. Bolnick gave a presentation on Quantifying the Impact of Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade.
- Dr. Ndlela also participated in TRALAC’s Annual Conference in Cape Town on April 26, where he provided closing remarks highlighting major issues from the conference.
- On May 23, at the request of USAID’s ZimACP project, Dr. Bolnick gave a presentation on Competition, Tariffs and Economic Development to a Combined Symposium of the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association, the Zimbabwe Poultry Association and the Pig Producers Association. The purpose of this presentation was to explain the importance of trade liberalization and regional integration to long-term success of agro-industries in Zimbabwe, and the economy overall.
- On June 13, Dr. Ndlela chaired a Southern African Political Economy Series (SAPES) Forum at which the Minister of Finance, Tendai Biti, gave a presentation on Zimbabwe’s Engagement with the International Community.

TECHNICAL SERVICES: ASSISTANCE TO ZIMSTAT

USAID SERA assistance to ZIMSTAT during Quarter 7 continued to focus on providing funding for development of a Central Business Register (CBR), as a cornerstone for improving the quality of economic statistics. Our support for the Survey of Services (SS) has been deferred to 2014, because ZIMSTAT must first complete the CBR to establish the sampling frame for this very important survey.

During the quarter, our support for the 2011-2012 Poverty, Income and Consumption Expenditure Survey (PICES) came to an end. We also continued our technical assistance for introducing distance learning systems for in-service training of statisticians, and pursued discussions (without results to date) on providing further technical assistance for developing Terms of Trade (TOT) statistics and a new STTA initiative to assist in developing systems for using hand-held computer technology (HCT) in economic field surveys.

The SERA COP continued to communicate regularly and meet intermittently with ZIMSTAT managers to monitor progress and manage the development of these activities. The COP participated in frequent meetings with officials from other agencies to coordinate support for the development of economic statistics and institutional capacity building for ZIMSTAT, notably the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, DFID, and the African Development Bank.

Dr. Beverley Carlson, senior statistics specialist continues to provide technical assistance to the COP for the development and management of SERA programmatic support to ZIMSTAT. Her main tasks during the quarter included reviewing the draft scope of work for funding the next stages of the CBR project; reviewing draft scopes of work and assisting with recruitment for the HCT consultancy; and a background paper on the methodology used by UNTAD to produce TOT statistics, with recommendations for ZIMSTAT.

PICES

The SERA COP continued to be actively involved in PICES Technical Steering Committee, which had its final meetings on April 17 and 23, prior to formal launch of two PICES reports by the Minister of Finance on June 13. As explained in prior QPRs, USAID SERA played a key role in providing technical and financial support for the PICES project, which has produced critical data on poverty and household economic characteristics. Among other things, PICES has provided a sound statistical basis for reweighting and rebasing the monthly Consumer Price Index statistics, and new estimates of poverty incidence, the size and structure of the informal economy, and the inflow of remittances.

A major issue addressed at the final meeting of the PICES Technical Committee was access to micro-level data records for researchers. This has special importance for USAID SERA because our support for ZIMSTAT is motivated by the need for improving economic statistics for use by policy makers and researchers. Access to microdata for the research community (and others) greatly enhances the value of data collection exercises such as PICES.

The outcome of the discussion at the technical meeting was a request by the PICES Director for partner organizations to review UN Guidelines on Managing Statistical Confidentiality and Microdata Access, and the provision on data confidentiality in Section 17 of the Census and Statistics Act of 2007. The SERA COP played a central role on behalf of the donors in addressing this request, through research on international practices and consultations with USAID, DFID, UNDP and the World Bank. He then wrote a response (copied here as Annex 4) incorporating the views of these agencies and requesting a meeting with ZIMSTAT management to discuss the way forward. DFID followed this up at the end of May with another request for a meeting. At the end of the quarter, donors were still waiting for a response. (Note: the meeting with the Director General and the Deputy DG took place on July 16; this will be covered in the next QPR.)

Support for the CBR

The CBR project is central to our mandate to help ZIMSTAT improve the quality and timeliness of economic statistics as the basis for evidence-based policy analysis and effective policy management. Once completed, the CBR will provide a central register of establishments operating in all sectors and regions of the economy, classified by primary activity using the latest international standard industrial classification codes. This will constitute the master sampling frame for collecting basic economic statistics such as the Survey of Services (SS), Quarterly Employment Inquiry (QEI), Census of Industrial Production (CIP), Volume of Manufacturing Index (VMI), and Business Tendency Survey (BTS). The Director General of ZIMSTAT has referred to the CBR as being just as central to the production of economic statistics as the population census is to the production of demographic statistics. In fact, these

two surveys are the only statistical products that have been supported by a special Statutory Instrument.

USAID SERA has been supporting the CBR since May, 2012, when we funded study tours to Nairobi and Pretoria. In June, 2012, SERA provided technical assistance to the CBR team, followed by funding for a Training of Trainers workshop in July. As a result of these activities, the CBR core team made major revisions to the implementation plan, including efforts to obtain business lists from the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) and lists of licensed establishments from local government authorities. In January, 2013, ZIMSTAT concluded that the ZIMRA would not share business lists, due to tax secrecy provisions of their legislation. Also, from preliminary field operations in December, ZIMSTAT determined that compilation of business license lists required far more effort and resources than expected. ZIMSTAT then prepared a new plan and budget for mobilizing 160 enumerators and field supervisors to collect license lists from local authorities throughout the country. With SERA funding, the field work was finished in April and the data processing was completed in May. ZIMSTAT ended with a list of more than 76,000 businesses. The next step is implementation of the CBR questionnaire—called the CBR Inquiry—to gather basic data such as economic sector, business turnover and employment, and (at SERA request) gender of ownership. In May, Nathan negotiated a contract with ZIMSTAT for \$814,348 to fund the CBR Inquiry, produce a CBR report, including metadata and a report on women-owned businesses, and hold a stakeholders' workshop to discuss the results. In June the agreement was approved by USAID and the contract was signed. The CBR Inquiry is scheduled to begin in early August and end by January. (Recovering the questionnaires will take several rounds of field visits.) For technical reasons, a separate contract will be prepared to fund the data processing, which is scheduled to begin approximately two months after the field work begins.

With the new implementation plan based on license lists from local authorities, the cost for the CBR has more than doubled from the initial estimates (for well-justified reasons). Given the escalation in cost for the CBR (and the SS as well, now that it will be a separate field exercise), co-financing will be required for the SS in 2014. Fortunately, DFID has agreed to include this co-financing in their new program for supporting statistical development.

Despite delays and changes to the implementation plan and budget, the CBR and SS projects remain as top priorities for USAID SERA funding support to ZIMSTAT.

Distance Learning Training Systems

On the technical assistance side our primary activity during Q7 has been continuation of consultancy from a local IT specialist, Mr. Goodbye Mavata, to help ZIMSTAT develop a distance learning (DL) system for in-service training in statistics. The objective is to provide a cost-effective training program to upgrade ZIMSTAT professional staff throughout the country and new recruits as they arrive, to enable all members of the professional staff to pass exams for international certification by the Royal Statistical Society. The DL system will use a curriculum of training modules developed last year for this purpose.

This consultancy began during Q6 with planning sessions followed by a technical proposal and implementation plan. The consultant then developed the software platform using open-source material, and collaborated with Mr. Nelson Mupfugami at ZIMSTAT in preparing a Strategy Note and a software demonstration for ZIMSTAT management, who approved the strategy and system in late March. Mr. Mavata then conducted a week of training on the new system for four ZIMSTAT training officers, from April 15-19. The consultant recommended running the DL system on a separate server due to hardware constraints at ZIMSTAT, to avoid his having to get access to the internal ZIMSTAT system. The IT unit at ZIMSTAT did not have a spare machine available for this purpose. As an interim solution, the SERA office provided a laptop for use as a DL server. In May and June the ZIMSTAT training officers worked with

their IT unit to load two training modules onto the software platform and test the system internally, with guidance and troubleshooting from Mr. Mavata. The next step, during Q8, will be a pilot test involving a roll-out of the first two training modules to several provincial offices that have adequate internet connections. DFID has indicated a willingness to provide co-financing to supply provincial offices with inexpensive laptops to be used by trainees. The pilot test will also require funding for training officers (and our consultant, initially) to visit provincial offices for demonstrating the new system to trainees in the field.

Other STTA Activities

As reported in our QPR for Q6, SERA provided the services of an expert on economic statistics and index numbers to assist ZIMSTAT in constructing a Terms of Trade (TOT) index and train their staff in the methodology. The consultant applied a variety of methods to construct several TOT indices using monthly trade data from ZIMSTAT, but the reported unit values were too erratic to produce meaningful estimates. His final report explained the problem and recommended an alternative approach using proxy prices for a sample of major imports and exports. ZIMSTAT management was not pleased with this consultancy because it did not produce the result that they wanted. During Q7, SERA proposed another highly qualified consultant to complete exercise, along the lines proposed by the first consultant, but ZIMSTAT did not approve the proposal. At the end of the quarter this activity was on hold pending the identification of a consultant approved by ZIMSTAT.

The request from ZIMSTAT for assistance in developing the use of handheld computer technology (HCT) for economic field surveys is also on hold indefinitely. For this assignment, Nathan proposed an outstanding stats-IT expert, whom ZIMSTAT did not approve due to his lack of experience specifically on HCT for economic surveys in the southern Africa region. We then identified three consultants with exactly this type of experience and expertise. But ZIMSTAT then instructed us to drop the assignment until such time as funding could be found for the required hardware and software procurements. This constraint on the STTA activity arose as a result of the escalation in cost for the CBR and the SS. As explained above, these critical surveys are likely now to absorb all of our available funding support for Years 2 and 3.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

The SERA Program contract identifies three cross-cutting issues as “general program parameters and guidance” applying to overall performance: coordination with other USAID programs; poverty; and gender.

Coordination with other USAID programs

The COP attended the quarterly EG Partners Meeting, which was chaired by Dr. Tina Dooley-Jones on April 29. On May 14, the COR arranged a meeting for the COP and RA to brief a visiting State Department official on SERA program activities and broader economic policy issues. Then June 18, the COP participated in a meeting organized by the Acting COR to discuss USAID EG activities with DFID official in order to coordinate our activities with those of a new program that DFID is developing for private sector development.

Again this quarter the COP had several collaborations with USAID’s ZimACP project. On April 30, he participated in a meeting with ZimACP to discuss plans for a conference on trade and agricultural development, aimed at ZimACP partners. As noted in section 3, at the request of ZimACP, the COP gave a presentation on Competition, Tariffs and Economic Development to a Combined Symposium of three

ZimACP-supported associations, on May 23. He also reviewed a ZimACP proposal for a study on the impact of cattle imports on the livestock industry in Zimbabwe.

Outside the USAID community, the COP and RA had intermittent discussions on policy issues and program coordination with the WB, UNDP, DFID, ACBF and SAPST, with particular focus on coordination of support to ZIMSTAT (see Assistance to ZIMSTAT, above). In addition, the RA briefed MOF Directors on coordination between USAID-SERA and DFID PFM training program, on 16 April 2016.

Poverty

Because the SERA program is demand driven, the scope of our involvement with poverty issues continues to be defined by needs of our partner agencies. However, we consistently seek to incorporate the poverty lens in dealing with other policy issues. Indeed, the fundamental goal of our support for research, training, and outreach with ZEPARU is to improve policy analysis and research dissemination in order to foster inclusive growth and employment creation as primary engines for poverty reduction.

With reference to the summary of our assistance to ZEPARU, above, several SERA-supported activities during Q7 involved elements relating to poverty reduction. These included: continuation of support to studies on financial sector development; continuation of funding for outsourced research on the economics of employment. In addition, the issue of poverty reduction will be a component of our work on a Tool Kit for training Parliamentarians, for which we completed planning in Q7, for implementation in Q8. Also during Q7 the RA had several discussions with ZEPARU on planning for a series of outsourced studies on the issue of inclusive growth; this activity will be developed during Q8.

For the ZIMSTAT component of the program, our support for PICES ended during Q7 (see section on PICES, above). This had been a top priority for SERA since the start-up period. The PICES reports have now been published, providing policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders with invaluable information on the incidence and distribution of poverty, and economic attributes of poor households. During Q7, the SERA COP provided detailed comments on the penultimate draft of both PICES reports, including spotting a calculation error that led to a major revision in ZIMSTAT's estimate of the size of the informal sector for the final report.

Gender

The SERA team applies a gender lens as far as possible in developing and managing all of our activities. As with our work on poverty issues, however, the demand-driven nature of our program means that our efforts on gender mainstreaming are filtered through needs of ZEPARU and ZIMSTAT.

In addition to the standard practice of tracking participants by gender in our activities (see Annex 2), we can report the following gender-related elements of our activities Quarter 7:

- Consistently emphasizing the importance of gender balance in meetings with ZEPARU and client ministries in all USAID-SERA supported training and outreach activities. At our request, for example, TRALAC incorporated gender considerations in sessions on the economics of regional integration when they facilitated the in-country short course on Regional Integration Negotiations in June.
- Working with ZEPARU to incorporate gender considerations meaningfully in scopes of work for research supported by USAID SERA. At our request, for example, ZEPARU incorporated gender considerations in their negotiations for outsourcing research on improving the competitiveness of key industrial value chains. Also, in line with earlier discussions between SERA and ZEPARU, their new research program on private sector development includes two studies on women in business, for which we expect to provide technical assistance.

- Our ongoing monitoring and evaluation activity includes scoring the gender content of research designs and SERA-supported studies (see Annex 2).
- Working with ZEPARU to come as close as possible to achieving gender balance in sponsoring economists for SERA-sponsored training activities. With reference to the activities summarized in Section 3, our results during Q7 were as follows:
 - Short course on Advanced Excel Skills (session 3): 7 women, 5 men.
 - External short-courses: 6 women, 11 men.
 - MSc bursary: 1 woman, 16 men (with 4 completing the program in May). Although we accepted four women, 2 declined the bursary and 1 dropped out due to low grades. The challenge of recruiting women for the program was discussed in earlier quarterly reports.
 - PhD bursary: 3 men, no women. Again, the recruiting challenge for this program was discussed in earlier quarterly reports.

Through the end of Q7, our cumulative gender balance for local and external short-courses was 40% women, compared to approximately one-third representation of women in the target group of economists in key economic ministries.

- Our support for the PICES study helped ZIMSTAT to produce the most detailed data in many years on the economic condition and poverty status of women in Zimbabwe.
- In negotiating our funding for the CBR Inquiry, ZIMSTAT agreed to our request to include in the final CBR report a chapter on Women in Business, summarizing basic economic characteristics of identifiable women-owned businesses; the data will include number of establishments, number of employees, and turnover, disaggregated by province and by ISIC classification.

In response to a request from USAID, we have added a new gender indicator to our M&E plan, GNDR-4: Proportion of target population reporting increased agreement with the concept that males and females should have equal access to social, economic, and political opportunities. We tested the use of this indicator for the SERA funded short-course on Regional Integration, which was run by ZEPARU and TRALAC in collaboration with MRIIC. At the start of the course the facilitators handed out the requisite questionnaire on attitudes towards equal access for males and females, but they chose not to repeat the questionnaire when the course ended, viewing this as a redundant exercise. We will be discussing the scope for applying this new indicator to SERA activities when USAID schedules a Data Quality Review (DQR) on this item. We will then incorporate the indicator in our M&E reports, as relevant.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PLAN

Given the need to develop our activities through collaboration with ZEPARU or ZIMSTAT and in response to their expressed needs, the implementation of our Work Plan for Year 2 is heavily affected by the decisions and actions of these partners. Many planned activities have been carried out on schedule, some are behind schedule but in process, and others have not been prioritized by our partners. Annex 1 provides an itemized summary of the status of activities targeted in our Work Plan for Year 2, as implemented through Quarter 7.

SERA PROGRAM CHALLENGES

During Quarter 7, the SERA team dealt with 5 key challenges, including two (items 1 and 3) carried over from the previous reporting period:

1. Absorptive capacity at ZEPARU. Although USAID SERA has been very active in providing support to ZEPARU during Q7 (see section 3), this major component of our program continues to proceed slowly compared to budgeted level of activity. We have been working with ZEPARU to improve their absorptive capacity in several ways. Through Dr. Ndlela's services as Resident Advisor, we continue to assist ZEPARU in developing technical work, capacity building, and mentoring. We also continue to provide ZEPARU with a full-time Training Coordinator to augment their limited staff capacity. In addition, we have provided case-by-case support for ZEPARU research and dissemination activities, including upgrading their website, funding research interns, and printing research products. Nonetheless, our budget projections show a significant residual of resources for support to ZEPARU. During Q7, we worked with USAID and the MOF to deal with this by establishing a new channel for programming SERA resources, through direct support to the Ministry. These negotiations were themselves a challenge (next item).
2. Developing the new channel of program activities through direct support to the MOF. Efforts to develop a new channel for program activities through direct support to the MOF moved very slowly during Q7 due to difficulties in scheduling meetings between the Ministry and USAID. The SERA RA was in frequent communication with ministry officials in April and May to facilitate these arrangements. Several meeting times were set and then postponed due to scheduling conflicts for senior officials in the ministry. As explained in section 2, the meeting took place on May 16, and a formal exchange of letters between USAID and the ministry was completed in June. As the next step, to take place in July, the SERA COP and RA meet with ministry officials to discuss modalities, procedures, and regulations for providing direct support to the ministry through this new channel. We expect that activities for the Ministry will begin shortly thereafter.
3. Outsourcing research. In Q7 the SERA team continued to provide extensive technical support to ZEPARU to help them develop capacity for manage outsourced research that would be eligible for SERA funding (under our budget allocation for "Research—Subcontracts and Grants in support of ZEPARU"). At the end of the quarter, ZEPARU was still in the process of negotiating agreements for three outsourced studies on industrial value chains. Furthermore, the outsourced study on Economics of Employment Creation was two months behind schedule. For details, see Research and Analysis: Outsourcing in section 3, above.
4. Complications in planning activities around the date of the election. During Q7, with ZEPARU, we developed plans and engaged outstanding experts for conducting two important in-country short-courses, on Applied Econometrics for Policy Research, in collaboration with RBZ, and Public Finance Management and Budget Control, in collaboration with the MOF. The courses were scheduled, respectively, for the end of July and the first week in August. The timing for both courses was disrupted by the Constitutional Court decision to hold elections on July 31. The SERA COP maintained steady communication to keep both consultants informed about these political developments. They were very understanding about the difficulty that would be faced in trying to conduct the courses during or immediately after the election period. At the end of Q7 the election date remained uncertain. (Note: A final decision was reached on July 4 to maintain July 31 as the election date; this necessitated new discussions with the consultants and our partner organizations to reschedule the courses.)
5. Managing STTA assignments requested by ZIMSTAT. In addition to our support for PICES and the CBR our Year 2 Work Plan included three STTA tasks that ZIMSTAT identified as priorities for SERA assistance. As discussed in section 4, the STTA assignment on distance learning has been going well,

though rather slowly. The other two tasks have been problematic, and absorbed a considerable amount of attention during Q7 from the COP and our statistical support specialist, Beverly Carlson. For details, see Other STTA Activities in Section 4, above.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

This section outlines selected key activities in process or planned for Quarter 7 (July-September, 2103).

Management and Administrative Services

- Finalize management decisions on the provision of management support to assist Daniel Ndlela when he assumes the position of COP beginning October 1, including if necessary a budget realignment request for this purpose.
- Liaise with partner organizations to complete the draft Work Plan for Year 3 by August 16 for USAID review, and the final Work Plan for Year 3 by September 15 for USAID approval.

Assistance to ZEPARU

- Completion of STTA study on developing financial and institutional sustainability for ZEPARU (STTA: Stephen Yeo).
- Completion and dissemination of STTA-supported studies on financial sector development (STTA: Dan Makina).
- Completion and dissemination of STTA-supported study on capital account liberalization (STTA: Keith Jefferis).
- Completion of ZEPARU-managed outsourced research on the Economics of Employment Creation, with USAID SERA funding (through LEDRIZ).
- Initiation by ZEPARU of outsourced research contracts on improving the competitiveness of major four industrial value chains, with USAID SERA funding.
- Initiation of the process for outsourcing studies on Inclusive Growth, with USAID SERA funding.
- Initiation of STTA to ZEPARU on three new research products: (1) Zimbabwe Country Study on the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement; (2) Reform of Zimbabwe's Bankruptcy Laws and Procedures; and a series of studies on Private Sector Development.
- STTA to develop an Economic Literacy "Tool Kit" for training Parliamentarians (STTA: Ithiel Mavasere).
- Development of a medium term intermittency consultancy arrangement for a senior local economist to serve as advisor to ZEPARU, to facilitate the transition when the RA position ends.
- Conduct at least one new rounds of training for government and central bank economists in Advanced Excel Skills.
- Conduct local short-courses on: (1) Public Finance Management – Budgeting and Budget Control, and (2) Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects.
- Develop local short-course on Monitoring & Evaluation of Projects, in collaboration with MEPIP.
- Develop local short-course on Tax Analysis and Revenue Forecasting, in collaboration with MOF.
- Fund 10 economists (more or less) to attend regional short-courses offered by MEFMI, ESAMI, or other regional organizations.

- Continue funding ZEPARU bursaries for 13 government economists to pursue part time M.Sc. program in economics at UZ, and induct up to 7 new economists to begin the program in the academic year that begins in August.
- Continue funding ZEPARU bursaries for 3 economists from RBZ who are pursuing Ph.D. programs in South Africa.
- Assist ZEPARU in developing effective measures to disseminate research products and public information those products.
- Provide funding or co-financing for ZEPARU research seminars and workshops relating to SERA-supported studies.
- Provide technical assistance on grant-writing, to assist ZEPARU in attracting new sources of funding for their research.

Assistance to the Ministry of Finance

- Initiate newly negotiated channel of direct support to the MOF; activities TBD.

Assistance to ZIMSTAT

- Funding for the CBR Inquiry, to begin in July.
- Completion of pilot phase for development of distance-learning training system for ZIMSTAT.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Annex 2 provides three matrices that appear in each progress report to monitor USAID SERA program performance in terms of delivering outputs, achieving results, producing proximate outcomes. A fourth matrix provides information on “context indicators” that track Zimbabwe’s progress towards the USAID-SERA program goal of improving the macroeconomic environment for growth and poverty reduction. Although no claim can be made for attribution to SERA, several observations are worth citing:

- Statistics on poverty in the PICES final report were unchanged from previous draft. The survey found that 62.6% of households and 72.3% of individuals in Zimbabwe are coping with levels of consumption below the poverty line. The poverty rate was virtually the same for households headed by males (62.9%) and females (62.0%).
- The IMF approved a Staff Monitored Program for Zimbabwe. This is a major milestone for achieving debt relief that is needed for Zimbabwe to regain access to long-term concessional financing from the World Bank and the AfDB, among others.
- Year-over-year growth of non-mineral revenues slowed to 8% for the April-June quarter, compared to 13% and 25%, respectively, in the previous two quarters. The latest figure is nearly equal to the growth rate of nominal GDP, implying that the ratio of revenue to GDP is stabilizing after four years of rapid increase since 2009. At the same time, mineral revenues continue to fall far short of target, putting a serious squeeze on government expenditure.
- The year-over-year growth rate of bank deposits fell to 12.2% this quarter, compared to 27.2% growth a year earlier. Since December, there has been virtually no increase in the deposit base, presumably reflecting political uncertainty.
- Despite the political uncertainty, over 7500 new businesses have registered during the first three quarters of SERA Year 2.

Annex 1. Implementation of Year 2 Work Plan – Status at end of Quarter 7 *

Year 2 Work Plan Task/Activity	Status at end of Q7
1. Management and Administration Services	
1.1. Project management and administration	
Coordinate with COR, other USAID programs, other key donors	Ongoing
Develop and manage STTA and MTTA assignments	Ongoing
Maintain project accounts consistent with budget parameters, and documentation for audit	Ongoing and up to date
Maintain documentation for activities, expenditures, and monitoring indicators	Ongoing and up to date
Complete IT review in compliance with ADS 548	Nathan HQ assessed ADS 548 requirement, in consultation with USAID/W, concluding that the review is not indicated at this time
Provide Training Coordinator to ZEPARU for management of SERA-supported activities	Ongoing
1.2. Reports	
Submit Annual Report for Year 1 (also serving as Quarterly Report for Q4)	Done
Work Plan revision, if necessary	Year 2 Work Plan approved by USAID; no changes made during Q6 ; additional activities approved by USAID case-by-case
Submit Quarterly Progress Reports	On schedule
Submit Quarterly Financial Reports	On schedule
Submit Quarterly Accrual Reports	On schedule
Submit Activity Reports, Success Stories	No new Success Stories submitted during Q7; at least 2 will be produced during Q8
Submit monthly activities reports and weekly highlights to mission	Monthly activity reports submitted on schedule Weekly bullets submitted to COR as warranted, new bullets overdue
Submit Annual Work Plan for Year 3	Scheduled for Q8
Submit updated M&E Plan for Years 3 and 4	Scheduled for Q8
Submit reports and information products to DEC	Guidance from COR received on materials to be submitted to DEC. Nathan HQ processes the documents for submission as available; frequent delays in getting final formatted copies from partners.
2. Assistance to ZEPARU	
Provide Senior Advisor to ZEPARU, Dr. Daniel Ndlela	Ongoing; will terminate following Q8.

Year 2 Work Plan Task/Activity	Status at end of Q7
Provide financing for 3 research intern	Ongoing
Coordinate with ZEPARU on priorities, activities	Ongoing, but with slow progress on many activities – see Sections 3 and 7 in the text.
Liaise with MOF, MEPIP, Parliament, through ZEPARU	Intermittent. In addition to liaison through ZEPARU, the SERA RA has informal discussions with senior officials at MOF. During Q7, USAID and the MOF reached agreement to expand the SERA scope to include direct support to the Ministry. At the end of Q7, the SERA team was awaiting a start-up meeting with MOF officials. See item 2.2 below for status of liaison with Parliament
Liaise with other USAID projects & other donors to coordinate SERA support for ZEPARU	Liaison with other USAID projects: in collaboration ZimACP, the SERA COP delivered a presentation on “Competition, Trade and Development” to a Combined Symposium of the Stockfeed Manufacturers Association, the Zimbabwe Poultry Association and the Pig Producers Association of Zimbabwe, on May 23; the COP also reviewed a ZimACP draft Terms of Reference for a study on the effect of cattle imports on beef producers. Intermittent meetings and discussions held with WB, UNDP, DFID, and the AfDB for coordination of activities.
Coordinate with ZEPARU in developing Work Plan for Year 3 of the SERA Program	To begin in July.
2.1. Research and Analysis	

Year 2 Work Plan Task/Activity	Status at end of Q7
<p>Provide technical support and mentoring to assist ZEPARU in producing at least 8 high quality research products on topics of importance to MOF and MEPIP.</p>	<p>Completed STT led ZEPARU study on Mining Sector Policy (Jourdan) and Agricultural Competitiveness (Martin Webber) and Choice of Currency Regime (Keith Jefferis).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed STTA-mentoring for study on Positioning Zimbabwe's Tourism Sector for Growth (Shepherd Nyaruwata). - Continued STTA-mentoring of 5 ZEPARU studies on financial sector development (Daniel Makina) - Provided technical support for final revision of ZEPARU study on Access to Bank Credit as a Strategy for Re-Industrialisation - Completed STTA-mentoring for study of Capital Account Restrictions (Keith Jefferis); study to be finalized in Q8. - Completed preparation for STTA-mentoring for Zimbabwe country study on the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (Robert Kirk). - Developed SOW for STTA-led study on Modernizing the Laws and Procedures for Resolving Insolvency in Zimbabwe - Initiated search for STTA to mentor series of studies on Private Sector Development
<p>Provide funding as "paying agent" for ZEPARU for completion of 3 outsourced research projects and at least 4 new outsourced projects</p>	
<p>Economics of Employment Creation</p>	<p>Contract between ZEPARU and LEDRIZ (and between ZEPARU and SERA for funding) ongoing; LEDRIZ submitted draft for review at the end of June, two months overdue. Initial review showed that the study requires major changes to meet conditions of contract.</p>
<p>2 x competitive grant from ZEPARU for policy research in key areas</p>	<p>ZEPARU reviewed 26 proposals for four studies on strengthening industrial value chains and sent guidelines for eligible costs to offerors with top-rated technical proposals. One offeror dropped out on grounds of timing; ZEPARU will contact second-ranked offeror for this study. Revised cost proposals received for the other three studies in May; SERA office assisted ZEPARU with due diligence analysis. Second revision received in late June, including documentation for labor rates. At least one more round of negotiation will be needed before contracts signed. Earliest start date is late July. Studies should take 3 months.</p>
<p>Paths to Inclusive Growth</p>	<p>Concept note being revised; process on hold until ZEPARU completes contracts for the industrial value chain studies.</p>
<p>Financial and institutional sustainability study for ZEPARU</p>	<p>Assignment implemented as STTA (Stephen Yeo) rather than through outsourcing. Draft completed and reviewed. Awaiting final report.</p>

Year 2 Work Plan Task/Activity	Status at end of Q7
Enhancing the Role of Women in Business	ZEPARU is now planning two studies on women in business as part of a series of in-house research papers on private sector development, to be supported by SERA STTA.
Provide capacity building support in managing outsourced research	During Q7, SERA office provided major support for process of evaluating cost proposals in accordance with USAID regulations for eligibility, and guiding procedures for negotiation between ZEPARU and top-ranked offerors.
Incorporate gender mainstreaming in policy studies	SERA office reviews SOWs and draft reports for gender content, and tracks gender content using scoring system specified in our M&E plan.
Assist ZEPARU in strengthening capacity to produce policy briefs in response to ad hoc requests from Government	Production of policy briefs has become a regular feature of ZEPARU plan for producing policy studies receiving USAID SERA support. To date only two policy briefs have been prepared – for the Makina study and the Webber study (see above). But none have been issued, awaiting formal launch event by ZEPARU. No progress in getting ZEPARU to produce short, timely, rapid-response policy briefs on “hot” policy issues.
Assist ZEPARU in developing press releases on research findings	Through COR, USAID public affairs office provided PR training for ZEPARU, on Jan 9. SERA office assisted ZEPARU in preparing first press release, on Makina’s financial sector study, but ZEPARU has not yet issued any press releases, pending formal launch of the research products. In June, however, they managed to get front-page coverage in the Herald and ZBC TV coverage for research seminar on Access to Finance paper.
Assist ZEPARU with planning and delivery of monthly research dissemination seminars	Ad hoc activity. During Q7, one research seminar conducted on Access to Finance. USAID SERA supported this paper only through providing comments by STTA, COP and RA.
Complete assistance for upgrading ZEPARU website	Website redesign and upgrade completed.
Assist ZEPARU in developing website content, including on-line library of resource materials (data, documents and research links)	SERA-funded STTA completed work in April; new website includes excellent links to local, regional and international resources.
Assist ZEPARU in enhancing access to international data and studies for research staff	We are pursuing this activity through STTA engaged for research mentoring, and through data links on new ZEPARU website content.
2.2. Parliamentarian Training	

Year 2 Work Plan Task/Activity	Status at end of Q7
In collaboration with Parliamentary leaders and SAPST: design, staff, schedule and deliver at least 6 SERA-supported seminars for Parliamentarians on Economic and Financial Literacy.	In February, SAPST discussed the ZEPAR SERA training propo with Parliamentary leaders. They decided to defer the program to the next Parliament, and asked ZEPARU and SAPST to develop a training "Tool Kit" for this purpose, with SERA-supported STTA. During Q7 the SOW was developed and a well-qualified candidate identified. The assignment should commence in July, to be finished by end-august.
Implement Certificate Program in Basic Economics for Parliamentarians, through ZEPARU	Included in the ZEPARU-SERA proposal for economic literacy training. Implementation deferred until the next Parliament.
2.3a. Short-term Training of Economists	
With ZEPARU, quarterly review of training priorities for SERA support	ZEPARU provides a table of training priorities for USAID SERA support and updates as needed, but also responds to un-programmed requests from key ministries. See text for details.
With ZEPARU, design, develop and deliver 5 customized local short-courses for economists.	
Financial Programming	Short course delivered Dec 2012. Follow-up training in this area is now being provided by the IMF.
Advanced Excel spreadsheet skills	Short-course delivered three times, in January, February and April. Fourth run to be scheduled by ZEPARU during Q8.
Other in-country short-courses	Short-course on Regional Integration completed, June 3-7, facilitated by TRALAC. Planning in progress for 2 other in-country short-courses: (1) Public Finance Management and Budget Control; (2) Applied Econometrics for Policy Research. In-country course on Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects on hold because intended facilitator is no longer available.

Year 2 Work Plan Task/Activity	Status at end of Q7
Support 10 government economists to attend regional training courses (2 per course)	2 economists sponsored to attend 2-week MEFMI course in April on Fiscal Policy and Aid Coordination, in Kigali, Rwanda. - 3 economists sponsored to attend 2-week ESAMI course in April on Engendering National Budgets, in Arusha, Tanzania. - 3 economists sponsored to attend 2-week ESAMI course in April on Advanced Public Sector Financial Management, in Mombasa, Kenya. - 3 economists sponsored to attend 1-week TIPS course in May on Introduction to CGE Modeling with GAMS, in Pretoria, South Africa - 4 economists sponsored to attend 2-week MEFMI course in May in Advanced Macroeconomic Analysis and Management, in Kigali, Rwanda - 2 economists sponsored to attend 2-week MEFMI course in June on Balance of Payment Manual, in Maseru, Lesotho
Support 8 government economists to attend longer regional training courses (2 per course)	The contract defines "longer" course as being from 2 to 4 weeks. Hence, all of the 2-week trainings listed above could be classified as "longer" courses.
Support 3 government economists to attend BLS course in Washington on Economic Indicators	No requests received for Washington-based training this year.
Conduct ex-post evaluations 6 months after each training event to assess value on the job and knowledge retention	Ongoing; see Annex 3 to the present report.
2.3b. Long-term Training of Economists	
Continue bursary funding for government economists selected as ZEPARU Economics Scholars for part-time MSc program in Economics at UZ	17 bursary recipients finished second semester in MSc program at UZ. 4 of them completed their degree program. We may induct up to 7 new bursary recipients to begin this program in August 2013, depending on results of applications to UZ by eligible government economists.
Continue monitoring use of laptop computers provided by SERA to ZEPARU Scholars at UZ	Ongoing, at intervals of 6 months; intern engaged to assist.
Complete decisions on SERA funding of bursaries to up to 5 government economists for PhD programs in economics at UCT or another regional institution (full time or part time)	Four economists – three from RBZ and one from MOF – were approved for PhD bursaries in South Africa beginning in February 2013. The MOF economist had to drop out during Q7 because Public Service Commission did not approve his study leave.
Provide full funding for government economists selected as ZEPARU Scholars for PhD programs	Funding being provided to PhD bursary recipients for registration, visa, health insurance, travel, lodging, subsistence expenses, and books.
Provide laptop computers to government economists selected for SERA-funded ZEPARU Scholars for PhD programs	Done.
Provide necessary logistical and personal support to SERA-funded ZEPARU Scholars in South Africa	Ongoing, through SERA-funded training coordinator at ZEPARU and Training coordinator at SERA office.

Year 2 Work Plan Task/Activity	Status at end of Q7
Monitor use of laptop computers provided by SERA to ZEPARU Scholars (MSc and PhD)	Ongoing, at intervals of 6 months; intern engaged to assist, under direction of SERA Training Coordinator
Track progress of all SERA-funded bursary students	Ongoing, through SERA-funded training coordinator at ZEPARU and Training coordinator at SERA field office
2.4. Workshops and other research dissemination events	
Assist ZEPARU in planning, organizing and implementing annual International Economics Conference for 2013 (possibly in collaboration with MOF)	Discussions in principal during Q7, but no progress.
Assist ZEPARU in presenting at least 2 other workshops to disseminate research and foster discussion of economic policy issues	No SERA-funded seminars or workshops during Q7; ZEPARU planning seminars during Q8 for several SERA-supported studies, as well as website launch.
3. Assistance to ZIMSTAT	
Coordinate with ZIMSTAT on priorities, activities	Ongoing meetings as needed, determined by progress with ongoing activities and ZIMSTAT schedules.
Liaise with other donors to coordinate SERA support for ZIMSTAT	Ongoing intermittent discussions with WB, UNDP, DFID, and AfDB.
Fund completion of Central Business Register (CBR) project	ZIMSTAT restructured the CBR implementation plan due to problems accessing ZIMRA administrative records. During Q6, SERA funded field work to compile business license lists from local government offices and processing of this data set. During Q7, SERA negotiated contract for implementing the full CBR questionnaire based on this business license list, which contains 76,000 entries.
Fund completion of Census of Services (COS) project	ZIMSTAT has restructured the COS as a <u>Survey of Services (SS)</u> to be carried out with SERA support after CBR project is finished (to provide the sampling frame). SS now scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2014.
STTA for creation of service sector index (or multiple indices)	Scheduled to take place after SS finished. (see previous entry)
STTA for rebasing of Volume of Manufacturing Index, Terms of Trade Index, and possibly other economic indices	At ZIMSTAT request, activity began with Terms of Trade Index; SERA STTA (Gerald Donahoe) conducted field visit in February. He found problems with import and export unit values in the trade data and recommended alternative approach using proxy price indices; SERA identified another consultant to complete this work, but ZIMSTAT has not approved the proposal. At end of Q7 activity on hold.

Year 2 Work Plan Task/Activity	Status at end of Q7
STTA for development of line and distance learning training module	Distance learning IT expert engaged as STT assisted ZIMSTAT with strategy paper and software demonstration to management; trained 3 ZIMSTAT training officers, who then populated the software platform with pilot training module. Roll-out of pilot test likely in Q8, with continued support from SERA STTA.
STTA and funding for infrastructure to implement and sustain on-line and distance-learning training modules	See previous entry. Distance learning strategy included specification of IT infrastructure requirements, but ZIMSTAT management determined that SERA funding should be allocated to CBR and SS. Roll-out of pilot will depend on co-financing for the IT procurements.
STTA and equipment for pilot project to introduce PDA technology to economic surveys.	SOW presented to ZIMSTAT at the end of January and approved by ZIMSTAT in May. SERA presented CVs for 4 highly qualified consultants, but ZIMSTAT decided to put this on hold due to SERA resource constraint for funding the necessary equipment (see previous entry).
Co-finance public information events and workshops for data producers and data users in the National Statistical System (NSS), relating to SERA-funded activities	No requests from ZIMSTAT for SERA funding in this area for Q7; stakeholder workshop included in funding for final stage of CBR.

* This table excludes some lines from the Year 2 Work Plan that were only sub-tasks or illustrative examples.

Annex 2: Performance Monitoring Indicators [forthcoming]

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Table A2.2. Intermediate Results Indicators	p37
Table A2.3. Outcome Indicators	p43
Table A2.4. Context Indicators	p45

TABLE A2.1 – OUTPUT INDICATORS

	Item	Baseline	Source	SERA YEAR 1 Actuals	SERA YEAR 2 Annual Target	SERA YEAR 2 Actuals			
						Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr – June	July - Sept
Assistance to ZEPARU									
A. Research and Analysis									
1.	Number of completed policy studies by ZEPARU with SERA support: total, and with gender content	0	ZEPARU	Total: 8 With gender content: 2	Total: 8 With gender content: 4	Total:1 Mining Sector Policy With gender content:1	Total : 1 Agriculture Competitiveness Study With gender content: 1	Total: 2 Tourism Study; Choice of Future Currency Regime Study With gender content: 1	
2.	Number of completed policy studies outsourced by ZEPARU with SERA support: total, and with gender content	0	SERA	0	Total: 4 With Gender Content: 2	0	0	0	
3.	Person-hours of training completed in fiscal policy and fiscal administration supported by USG assistance (USAID PMP indicator): total, women	0	SERA	Total: 1680 Women: 400	Total: 2500 Women: 1250	Total: 2730 Women: 695	Total: 212 Women: 159 (Hours by MSc and PhD Bursary Recipients counted when courses are completed)	Total: 3375 Women: 706 (Hours by MSc & PhD Bursary Recipients counted when courses are completed)	
4.	Number of days of SERA technical assistance in fiscal policy and fiscal administration (USAID PMP indicator)	0	SERA	285	360	138	78 (revised in Q7)	117	
B. Parliamentarian Training									

	Item	Baseline	Source	SERA YEAR 1 Actuals	SERA YEAR 2 Annual Target	SERA YEAR 2 Actuals			
						Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr – June	July - Sept
5.	Number of SERA-supported seminars for Parliamentarians, on economic policy and economic literacy.	0	SERA	0	6 seminars	0	0	Plans for development of economic literacy tool kit developed. Clerk of Parliament requested deferment until next Parliament.	
6.	Number of Parliamentarians trained with SERA support: total, women	0	SERA	0	Total: 100 Women: 50	0	0	0 (see previous line)	
C. Short-term Training of Economists									
7.	Number of SERA-supported customized short-courses for training economists.	0	SERA	1 customised short course	5 customised short courses	1 customised short course (Financial Programming)	2 customised short courses (Advanced Excel)	2 customized short courses (Advanced Excel, Regional Trade)	
8.	Number of economists attending customized short-courses: total, women	0	SERA	Total: 17 Women: 4	Total: 100 Women: 50	Total: 24 Women: 12	Total: 30 Women: 12	Total: 38 Women: 16	
9.	Number of individuals sponsored to attend external short-courses: total, women	0	SERA	Total: 12 Women: 5	Total: 20 Women: 10	Total: 2 Women: 1	Total : 4 Women: 3	Total: 17 Women: 6	
10.	Number of individuals sponsored to attend longer external courses: total, women	0	SERA	Total: 2 Women: 1	Total: 8 Women: 4	0	0	0	
D. Long-term Training of Economists									
11.	Number of individuals w/ SERA bursaries to part-time MSc in Economics at U Zimbabwe: total, women	0	SERA	Total: 18 Women: 2	Total: 20 Women: 10	Total: 17 Women: 1	Total: 17 Women: 1	Total: 17 Women: 1	
12.	Number of individuals w/ SERA bursaries to PhD in Economics at UCT - total, women	0	SERA	0	Total: 5 Women: 3	Total: 1 Women: 0	Total: 4 Women: 0	Total: 3 Women: 0	

	Item	Baseline	Source	SERA YEAR 1 Actuals	SERA YEAR 2 Annual Target	SERA YEAR 2 Actuals			
						Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr – June	July - Sept
E. Workshops (for outreach/dissemination)									
13.	Number of SERA-supported outreach/dissemination workshops	0	SERA	4	3	1 (World Bank/ZEPARU High level tech. dialogue)	1 (Tourism study dissemination workshop)	0	
14.	Number of participants in SERA-supported workshops or seminars a) total, women b) government, private sector, ZEPARU/SERA, other	0	SERA	Total: 366 Women: 81 Government: 166 Private sector: 62 ZPR/SERA: 49 Other: 89	a) Total: 300 Women:150 b) For tracking purposes no targets	a) Total :184 Women: not available b)Government: 53 Private Sector: 40 ZPR/SERA: 9 Other: 82	a)Total : 47 Women : 20 b) Government: 14 Private Sector: 11 ZPR/SERA: 15 Other: 7	0	
Assistance to ZIMSTAT									
A. Improve organization and coordination of NSS									
15.	Number of meta-data documents and data manuals produced and posted on-line with SERA support	0	SERA	0	2	0	Methodology descriptions and data definitions will be in the PICES report, to be launched in April.	Methodology descriptions and data definitions available in the PICES report launched in April.	
16.	Number of SERA-supported public information events on economic statistics, through ZIMSTAT	0	SERA	0	3	0	0	0	
17.	Number of participants in SERA-supported public events through ZIMSTAT - total, women	0	SERA	0	Total: 150 Women: 75	0	0	0	
B. Develop physical, IT and statistical infrastructure									
18.	Number of SERA-supported training events for ZIMSTAT staff	0	SERA	3 (2 study tours, 1 training workshop)	2	1 (training workshop for enumerators)	0	1 (Distance Learning Training of trainers)	

	Item	Baseline	Source	SERA YEAR 1 Actuals	SERA YEAR 2 Annual Target	SERA YEAR 2 Actuals			
						Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr – June	July - Sept
19.	Number of participants in SERA - supported training courses for ZIMSTAT staff - total, women	0	SERA	Total: 32 Women: 6	Total: 40 Women: 20	Total: 179 Women: 48	0	Total : 4 Women: 0	
20.	Cum. number of online courses in economic statistics developed/supported by SERA	0	SERA	Online training courses to be developed with ZIMSTAT in SERA Year 2	1	STTA recruiting begun in Dec for development of on-line and distance-learning training modules	SERA STTA developed software platform for DL system and strategy paper for provision of DL that was approved in March. Training of trainers to begin in April.	DL Training of trainers undertaken in April. SERA STTA supporting the development of training modules and systems in provincial offices. Initiation of pilot phase of implementation expected in Aug	

TABLE A.2.2 – INTERMEDIATE RESULT INDICATORS

	Item	Baseline	Source	SERA YEAR 1 Actuals	SERA YEAR 2 Annual Target	SERA YEAR 2 Actuals			
						Oct – Dec	Jan – Mar	April - Jun	Jul - Sept
Assistance to ZEPARU									
A. Research and Analysis									
1.	Number of policy briefs/studies drafted and presented for public/stakeholder consultation with USG assistance(USAID PMP indicator): total, and with gender content	0	ZEPARU	Total: 6 With gender content: 3	Total: 10 With gender content: 5	0	Total : 1 Tourism Sector Study With gender content: 1	Total: 1 Access to Bank Credit With gender content: 0	
2.	Number of economic research material available through online library on the ZEPARU website	12 (9 Periodic articles, 3 serials)	ZEPARU	Data not available. Website down. SERA supporting website upgrade.	>=60 papers	Website down. Data not available. (SERA assisting with website upgrade.)	6 (2 research papers, 4 economic barometers)	24 (15 research papers, 8 economic barometers, 1 policy brief) 77 economic resource links	
B. Parliamentarian Training									
3.	Survey on knowledge retention and on the job utilization of content from SERA supported training, 6 months after each course, results disaggregated by sex	0	ZEPARU	Survey tool developed. Parliamentarian training planned for Year 2	Results for each seminar	No seminars held yet. (see next line)	No seminars held yet. (see next line)	No seminars held yet. (see next line)	
4.	Number of MPs completing Certificate Program: total , women	0	Parliament	Proposal completed. Awaiting discussion with Parliament	Total: 10 Women: 5	SAPST discussed plan with Clerk of Parl. Launch event expected next quarter.	Clerk of Parliament resolved that program be deferred to the next Parliament. SERA, ZEPARU and SAPST seeking STTA to draft a "Tool Kit" for the training	Prepared SOW and identified STTA to draft "Tool Kit" for parliamentarian training. Preparation and launch of "Tool Kit" expected to begin in July and to be finished in	

	Item	Baseline	Source	SERA YEAR 1 Actuals	SERA YEAR 2 Annual Target	SERA YEAR 2 Actuals			
						Oct – Dec	Jan – Mar	April - Jun	Jul - Sept
								August.	
C. Training of Economists									
5.	Survey on knowledge retention and on the job utilization of content from SERA supported training, 6 months after each course, results disaggregated by sex	0	ZEPARU	1 underway (for TIPS course.) Summary of results to be submitted in October 2012	Results for each course	3 surveys completed. (see annex 3 for results reports)	3 surveys completed. (see annex 4 for results reports)	2 surveys completed. (see annex 3 for results reports)	
6.	Cum. number of semesters completed by gov't economists pursuing MSc-Econ at U Zim w/ SERA support - total, women	0	University of Zimbabwe	6 (of 8 bursary recipients, 6 passed, 1 failed, 1 is waiting to sit for suppl. exam. (No women in first cohort of MSc bursaries)	Total: 48 Women: 24	Total: 24 Women: 1	Total: 24 Women: 1	Total: 41 Women: 2	
D. Workshops (for outreach and dissemination)									
7.	Number of press releases published or positive news reports on SERA-supported outreach/dissemination events: total, and with gender content	0	SERA	Total: 9 With gender content: 0 Details on file available on request	Total: 10 With gender content: 5	0	Total : 1 With gender content: 0	Total: 1 (Tourism study) With gender content: 0	
Assistance to ZIMSTAT									
A. Improve organization and coordination of NSS									
8.	Number of economic reports produced by ZIMSTAT with lag of no more than 12 months	2 – revised (CPI report; Poverty Datum Line Report)	ZIMSTAT	4	6	4 Quarterly Digest of Statistics, CPI , Business Tendency Survey, Poverty Datum Line Report	4 Quarterly Digest of Statistics, CPI , Business Tendency Survey, Poverty Datum Line Report	6 Quarterly Digest of Statistics, CPI, Business Tendency Survey, Poverty Datum Line Report, PICES	

	Item	Baseline	Source	SERA YEAR 1 Actuals	SERA YEAR 2 Annual Target	SERA YEAR 2 Actuals			
						Oct – Dec	Jan – Mar	April - Jun	Jul - Sept
								Report, Poverty and Poverty Datum Line Analysis in Zim.	
B. Develop physical, IT and statistical infrastructure									
9.	Completion and publication of the Poverty, Income, Consumption Expend. Survey (PICES)	field work underway	ZIMSTAT	Field work, data entry, processing and SERA STTA completed. Draft ICES report completed for tech. committee review.	Report completed and disseminated	Final Draft of ICES report completed. Findings presented to the tech. steering committee. Stakeholders' workshop to discuss findings expected in Q2	Stakeholder workshop to discuss findings of PICES undertaken in March 2013. Official launch of the PICES report to take place in April 2013	PICES Report completed and launched in April 2013.	
10.	Completion of Central Business Registry (CBR) update	poor quality data	ZIMSTAT	Field work delayed for plan revision. Local and regional study visits and training of trainers conducted. Training of 130 enumerators and 20 teams leaders planned for October 2012	Results Disseminated	CBR, COS (now SS) training of 179 enumerators and team leaders completed in October 2012. Schedule for data collection depends on negotiations with ZIMRA for lists of tax filers.	Nationwide field operation for compiling business license lists completed. Data entry and processing underway.	Data processing and compiling of 76,000 licensed businesses completed. SERA funding for CBR survey based on this master sampling frame to start mid-July 2013	
11.	Completion of Census of Services (COS)	Last done 1981 (partial coverage only)	ZIMSTAT	Plan approved but being reconsidered in light of study tours and STTA.	COS completed and index of Services developed	COS converted to Survey of Services (SS). SERA funding on hold pending restructuring of implementation plan. SS to take place after CBR is finished.	SS to take place after CBR is finished.	SS likely to take place in 2014 after CBR is finished. (see previous line)	

	Item	Baseline	Source	SERA YEAR 1 Actuals	SERA YEAR 2 Annual Target	SERA YEAR 2 Actuals			
						Oct – Dec	Jan – Mar	April - Jun	Jul - Sept
12.	Number of ZIMSTAT staff using/completing SERA-supported on-line training courses: total, women	not applicable	ZIMSTAT	on - line training plan established	Online training courses to be developed with ZIMSTAT in SERA Year 2	STTA recruiting begun in Dec for development of on-line and distance-learning training modules	SERA STTA developed software platform for DL system and strategy paper for provision of DL that was approved in March. Training of trainers to begin in April.	Training of trainers undertaken in April 2013. SERA STTA supporting the development of DL training modules and systems in provincial offices. Initiation of pilot phase of implementation expected in July.	

TABLE A.2.3 - OUTCOME INDICATORS

	Item	Baseline	Source	SERA YEAR Actuals	SERA YEAR 2 Target	SERA YEAR 2 Actuals			
						Oct – Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	Jul - Sept
Assistance to ZEPARU									
1.	Number policy briefs/ studies analysed and drafted with USG assistance, presented for public/stakeholder consultation and that contribute to new policies approved/ passed for implementation (USAID PMP Indicator); total and with gender content	0	ZEPARU	0	Total: 2 With gender content: 1	Total: 2 With gender content: 2 (Mining Sector Policy; Financial Sector Development)	No additional items this quarter but Mining Sector Policy study continuing to influence policy decisions during this quarter.	Mining Sector Policy study continuing to influence policy with GoZ working on a new Minerals Policy and Mines and Minerals Act.	
2.	Number policy briefs/ studies analysed and drafted with USG assistance, presented for public/stakeholder consultation and that contribute to new policies approved/ passed where implementation is confirmed to have begun (USAID PMP Indicator); total and with gender content	0	ZEPARU	0	1	Total: 2 With gender content: 2 (Mining Sector Policy; Financial Sector Development)	No additional items this quarter.	No additional items this quarter.	
3.	Number of "hits" and downloads of policy briefs/reports/studies posted on ZEPARU website	568 hits 353 downloads	ZEPARU	Data not available. SERA support for website upgrade began	100% increase over prior year	Data not available, website still down. SERA assisting with website upgrade.	Data since new website became operational in early March: 135 downloads	1728 downloads recorded.	
4.	Number of local trainers capacitated to deliver short-courses for training gov't economists, through SERA support: total, women	0	ZEPARU	0	Total: 4 Women: 2	0	0	0	

	Item	Baseline	Source	SERA YEAR 1 Actuals	SERA YEAR 2 Target	SERA YEAR 2 Actuals			
						Oct – Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	Jul - Sept
5.	Amount of funding for ZEPARU, excluding time-limited donor support	Budget vote 2010=\$10,000 2011=\$200,000	ZEPARU	\$78,550 (of which \$65,000 from GoZ)	\$300,000, incl. \$200k budget vote + other sources	CY2012 results: GOZ: \$100,000 Res Grants: \$19,295	Funds received this quarter \$8,250 from AfDB \$600 from Consumer Council of Zimbabwe	Funds received this quarter GoZ: \$30,000 AfDB: \$5,500 ACI: \$5,000 TARSC: \$3,000	
Assistance to ZIMSTAT									
6.	Improved National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) statistics using PICES data and economic surveys that benefit from CBR upgrade	Seriously deficient statistical inputs to NIPA	ZIMSTAT	PICES data processing Complete. First draft ICES report completed for tech. committee review. CBR,COS training of enumerators planned for October 2012	CBR update and COS data complete	Final Draft of ICES report completed. CBR, COS (now SS) training of enumerators and team leaders completed in October. Data collection scheduled to commence in 2013	Stakeholder workshop to discuss findings of PICES undertaken in March 2013. Official Launch of the PICES report to take place in April 2013. CBR nationwide field operation for compiling business license lists completed. Data entry & processing underway.	PICES Report completed and launched in April 2013. PICES provides new information on size of the informal sector providing a basis for revision of contribution of informal sector to GDP.CBR data processing complete. CBR survey to start in mid-July.	
7.	Number of economic reports available on the ZIMSTAT website, with lag of no more than 12 months	1 (revised) Poverty datum line report	ZIMSTAT	3	4	3 Quarterly Digest of Statistics, CPI report, Poverty datum line Report	3 Quarterly Digest of Statistics, CPI report, Poverty datum line Report	5 Quarterly Digest of Statistics, CPI report, Poverty datum line Report, PICES Report, Poverty Datum Line Analysis Report	

TABLE A.2.4 - CONTEXT INDICATORS

	Item	Baseline	Source	SERA YEAR 1 Actuals	SERA YEAR 2 Annual Target	SERA YEAR 2 Actuals			
						Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	Jul - Sept
Economic Growth									
1.	Real GDP Growth relative to IMF projection for 2012-2015, from WEO Sep 2011	IMF estimate 6.0% for 2011; projection 3.1% in 2012; 3.0% for 2013-15	IMF for updated estimates, ZIMSTAT for actuals	IMF growth estimate for 2012 remains at 4.7%; projection 6.3% in 2013; 5.2% in 2014; 4.7% in 2015	IMF baseline proj. for 2013 exceed by 0.5% = 3.5%	IMF growth estimate for 2012 increased to 5%	IMF growth estimate for 2012 reduced to 4.42%; projection 4.96% in 2013; 5.7% in 2014; 5.54% in 2015	IMF growth estimate for 2012 remains at 4.42%; projection 4.96% in 2013; 5.7% in 2014; 5.54% in 2015	
Poverty Reduction									
2.	Poverty indicators as available (total, male, female)	UZ/MZF 2011: total consumption poverty rate = 87%	Agencies conducting poverty surveys, with or w/o SERA support	Prevalence of underweight children under 5: 11.1% male, 8.4% female, 9.7% total (ZDHS 2010-2011 MDG indicator for eradicating extreme poverty & hunger)	PICES data published; Quick Poverty Survey instrument developed	Draft PICES report under tech. review. Final draft expected in Feb 2013.	HH poverty prevalence = 62.6% HH extreme poverty prevalence=16.2% Individual poverty prevalence=72.3% Individual extreme poverty prevalence=22.5% (ZIMSTAT Poverty Report 2011/12)	Final PICES data remains the latest data. (see previous column)	
Employment Creation									
3.	Growth in formal sector non-gov't jobs (total, male, female), excluding agriculture.	422,700 = latest ZIMSTAT data for Dec 2008. No breakdown by sex available	ZIMSTAT	Number age 15+ employed outside gov & agric Total: 1,079,082 Women 380,575 (Nathan calc., data from draft ICES 2011/12)	10% growth in formal sector jobs	Number age 15+ employed outside gov & agric: Total: 1,074,405 Women: 370,350 (Nathan calc. using data from final draft of ICES 2011/12)	<u>Paid employment</u> as % Ec Active Pop age 15+: Total: 23.8% Men: 31.2% Women: 16.2% <u>Total employment</u> outside gov & agric: Total: 1,046,463 Men: (65.2%) Women: (34.8%) (PICES 2011/12, & Nathan calc's)	Final PICES data remains the latest data. (see previous column)	

	Item	Baseline	Source	SERA YEAR 1 Actuals	SERA YEAR 2 Annual Target	SERA YEAR 2 Actuals			
						Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	Jul - Sept
Fiscal Management and Administration									
4.	Non-mineral revenue (NMR)	2.6 billion (2011)	Baseline from ZIMRA 2011 Revenue Performance Report	NMR for July-Sept = \$823.4m Same period 2011 = \$717.4m Growth = 15% Total = \$2321.9m through to Sept. 2012	Non-mineral revenue gr. >= growth of non-mining GDP	Net Collections for 2012 = \$3.257billion 2011 = 2.6 billion Growth = 25%	Cumulative total for 2013 Q1 = \$818.6m Same period 2012 = \$723.9m Growth = 13% (Revised in Q7)	Net collection for 2013 Q2 = \$836.9m Same period 2012 = \$774.6 m Growth = 8%	
5.	Percentage of central government expenditure on social services and productive infrastructure (excl. personnel cost)	Est. 18.42% (September 2011)	MOF	16.4% (Jan-Jun 2012) No data currently available on government spending for the third quarter of 2012	22%	Est. 18.3% (September 2012)	Data available on government capital expenditure as a % of total expenditure = 6.2% (Treasury State of the Economy Report, March 2013)	Data available on government capital expenditure as a % of total expenditure = 5.2% (Treasury State of the Economy Report, April 2013)	
Debt Relief									
6.	Improved debt management	Controversy on use of HIPC	MOF	Validation and consolidation of national debt on-going. IMF to decide on GoZ's request for a SMP in October 2012	Plan for debt relief and IMF Staff Monitored Program (SMP)	IMF relaxed most restrictions on TA to Zimbabwe. GoZ negotiations with IMF continue on the Staff Monitored Program.	GoZ in process of concluding negotiations with IMF for a SMP, finalizing negotiations for the Letter of Intent (LOI), the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP), and the Technical Memorandum of Understanding (TMU).	IMF approves a Staff Monitored Program for Zimbabwe.	

	Item	Baseline	Source	SERA YEAR 1 Actuals	SERA YEAR 2 Annual Target	SERA YEAR 2 Actuals			
						Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	Jul - Sept
Investment Promotion									
7.	Foreign direct investment, net inflow (US\$ millions)	\$105m, 2009 \$122.6m, 2010 (RBZ Actuals)	Baseline: Actuals: RBZ BOP Data	2011=\$387m 2012 projection=\$550m	FDI for 2013 surpasses RBZ projection for 2012 of \$540m	2012 projection revised down to \$504m	2012 projection revised down to \$353.5m	No change in RBZ BOP data from last Quarter. RBZ working on migrating from BOP Manual 4 to BOP Manual 6 with IMF TA	
Gender Equity									
8.	Formal sector employment, non-gov't: % women	37% of women formally+informally employed. Data n.a. on formal sector jobs by sex	Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey 2010 -2011	% "employed" age 15+ in non-gvt excl. agric. Male = 64.7% Female = 35.3% (Nathan calc., data from draft ICES 2011/12)	10% growth	"Employed" in non-gvt excl. agric., age 15+ : Male = 65.3% Female = 34.7% (Nathan calc., data from final draft ICES 2011/12)	% "employed" age 15+ in non-gvt excl. agric. Male = 65.2% Female = 34.8% % of <u>paid</u> employment Male = 66.4% Female = 33.6% (Nathan calc., data from final PICES Report 2011/12)	Final PICES data remains the latest data. (see previous column)	
Business Environment									
9.	New business registrations (number per calendar year)	8550 in 2011	Registrar of Companies	7693 (through to September 28, 2012)	10000	2483 (Oct - Dec 2013)	2697 (Jan - March 2013)	2388 (April-June 2013)	
10.	Doing Business Ranking	171 out of 183 countries for 2012	IFC/WB Doing Business Report 2012	171 out of 183 countries for 2012	157	172 out of 185 countries for 2013	172 out of 185 countries for 2013	172 out of 185 countries for 2013	
Financial Sector									
11	Level and Growth of deposits in banking system	December 2011 total deposits = \$3318.2m , Growth = 42.6%	RBZ Monthly Report	July 2012 total deposits = \$3697.6m Growth from year earlier = 27.2%	20% growth	November 2012 = \$3624.7m Growth = 23.8%	February 2013 = \$3813.6m Growth from year earlier = 12.84%	May 2013 = \$4018.1m Growth from year earlier = 12.23%	

	Item	Baseline	Source	SERA YEAR 1 Actuals	SERA YEAR 2 Annual Target	SERA YEAR 2 Actuals			
						Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - June	Jul - Sept
12	Bank interest spread (% points) (average lending rate less SERA estimate of average interest cost of deposit funds)	Est. 9.9% (October 2011)	RBZ Monthly Weekly Reports	4.6%* (July 2012)	9.0%	7.1%	6.6%*	6.07%*	
13	World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator (Indicator from NSDS Monitoring F/Work).	49 (2011)	World Bank	53 (2012)	65	53 (2012) Data produced annually each September	53 (2012) Data produced annually each September	53 (2012) Data produced annually each September	

* Best estimate of Interest Spread given here = weighted average deposit rate – corporate clients weighted average lending rate. Weighted average deposit rate calculated as the (weighted factor/total deposit amount)*100

Annex 3: Training Evaluation—ex-Post (6-month) Surveys

This Annex provides a tabulation of the main results and a consolidated report on findings from the ex-post evaluations for the following SERA-supported courses:

1. MEFMI regional course on Economic Modeling and Forecasting, 15 -19 October 2012, Lilongwe, Malawi (2 responses, out of 2 participants)
 2. ZEPARU in-country course : Macroeconomic Policy Analysis and Financial Programming, 3-14 December 2012, Harare (19 responses, out of 24 participants).
-

PAX	New knowledge and information acquired Scale: 1-5	Practical value or usefulness to the job Scale: 1-5	Extent to which course matched expectations Scale: 1-5	Extent to which course addresses Zim needs and concerns Scale: 1-5	Level of difficulty Scale: 1-5	Personal effort put into the course Scale: 1-5	Course length in relation to amount & difficulty of content Scale: 1-5
ZEPARU In country course : Financial Programing and Policies, 3-14 December 2012, Harare							
1.	5/5 Great deal	4/5 high	4/5 high	4/5 high	3/5 medium	5/5 Very high	2/5 too short
2.	5/5 Great deal	5/5 Very high	4/5 high	3/5 medium	3/5 medium	5/5 Very high	3/5 About right
3.	3/5 moderate amount	3/5 medium	2/5 very low	3/5 medium	1/5 Very low	3/5 medium	2/5 too short
4.	4/5 Quite a lot	5/5 Very high	5/5 Very high	5/5 Very high	4/5 high	5/5 Very high	2/5 too short
5.	4/5 Quite a lot	5/5 Very high	4/5 high	5/5 Very high	3/5 medium	4/5 high	2/5 too short
6.	4/5 Quite a lot	4/5 high	3/5 medium	4/5 high	4/5 high	4/5 high	3/5 About right
7.	5/5 Great deal	5/5 Very high	4/5 high	4/5 high	3/5 medium	5/5 Very high	3/5 About right
8.	4/5 Quite a lot	4/5 high	4/5 high	4/5 high	3/5 medium	4/5 high	3/5 About right
9.	5/5 Great deal	5/5 Very high	4/5 high	4/5 high	3/5 medium	4/5 high	3/5 About right
10.	4/5 Quite a lot	4/5 high	4/5 high	4/5 high	3/5 medium	4/5 high	3/5 About right
11.	4/5 Quite a lot	5/5 very high	4/5 high	5/5 Very high	2/5 low	4/5 high	1/5 Much too short

PAX	New knowledge and information acquired Scale: 1-5	Practical value or usefulness to the job Scale: 1-5	Extent to which course matched expectations Scale: 1-5	Extent to which course addresses Zim needs and concerns Scale: 1-5	Level of difficulty Scale: 1-5	Personal effort put into the course Scale: 1-5	Course length in relation to amount & difficulty of content Scale: 1-5
12.	4/5 Quite a lot	3/5 medium	4/5 high	4/5 high	3/5 medium	4/5 high	3/5 About right
13.	3/5 moderate amount	4/5 high	4/5 high	3/5 medium	2/5 low	5/5 Very high	2/5 too short
14.	4/5 Quite a lot	4/5 high	3/5 medium	3/5 medium	3/5 medium	4/5 high	2/5 too short
15.	4/5 Quite a lot	4/5 high	5/5 Very high	4/5 high	3/5 medium	4/5 high	2/5 too short
16.	4/5 Quite a lot	4/5 high	4/5 high	3/5 medium	3/5 medium	4/5 high	2/5 too short
17.	4/5 Quite a lot	5/5 very high	4/5 high	4/5 high	3/5 medium	4/5 high	3/5 About right
18.	4/5 Quite a lot	3/5 medium	3/5 medium	4/5 high	4/5 high	5/5 Very high	1/5 Much too short
19.	4/5 Quite a lot	3/5 medium	4/5 high	4/5 high	4/5 high	5/5 Very high	2/5 too short
MEFMI Economic Modelling and Forecasting Workshop, 15 -19 October 2012, Lilongwe, Malawi							
1.	3/5 Moderate amount	4/5 high	3/5 medium	4/5 high	3/5 medium	4/5 high	2/5 too short
2.	4/5 high	5/5 Very high	5/5 Very high	5/5 Very high	2/5 low	5/5 Very high	2/5 too short

Report on the results of the survey on knowledge retention and on the job utilisation of content from the MEFMI Regional Workshop on Economic Modelling and Forecasting, 15-19 October 2012.

The USAID SERA Program provided funding for ZEPARU Senior Research Fellow - Ms Erinah Chipumho, and Ministry of Finance Senior Economist - Mr Noell Machinjike, to attend the MEFMI Regional Workshop on Economic Modelling and Forecasting held in Lilongwe, Malawi from 15-19 October 2012.

The two trainees participated in the USAID SERA survey to assess knowledge retention and on-the-job utilization of the training content in April 2013, 6 months after the course was undertaken.

Both participants reported that the course had presented them with new information and knowledge and listed the following as the main important learning objectives learnt:

- Forecasting using E-views;
- Developing a model using numerous equations in E-views;
- Identification of relationships between economic aggregates; and
- Forming relevant assumptions when forecasting.

The two participants reported that they had made presentations to co-workers on the highlights and benefits of the workshop after completion. They also reported that they currently retain enough knowledge to explain/present a seminar to colleagues on some of the learning objectives specified above, explaining briefly, on the amount of knowledge they currently retain on the learning objectives. Participants explained that in-order for them to develop a model using various equations; they would require assistance from other experts in-order for their model to perform well.

Both participants rated the practical value and usefulness of the course on their respective jobs at high levels and mentioned that the course had matched most of their objectives and expectations. The MOF economist however reported that the course had dwelt more on pre-requisite tests for model estimation such as unit root testing and diagnostic testing, leaving little time for the actual modelling and forecasting exercise. He recommends that the course length be increased to two weeks, to provide more time for model specification (linear, log linear, exponential etc.) and time for practical exercises.

As economists, participants stressed that the training enhanced their modelling and forecasting skills, skills necessary for evidence based research. The ZEPARU researcher went further to state her intention to develop an inflation forecasting model for Zimbabwe by December 2013.

Both participants rated the level of difficulty for this course at relatively low levels but indicated that they had still put a lot of effort into the course. They were also in agreement that the 5- day course length had been too short to cover the amount and content of the training.

Participants are in agreement that similar courses should be undertaken and they would recommend such a course to their colleagues. Colleagues would find the course useful in economic modelling using ordinary least squares, forecasting using E-views and the interpretation of regression results.

Report on the results of the survey on knowledge retention and on the job utilisation of content from the ZEPARU In-country Workshop on Financial Programming and Policy course, 3 – 14 December 2012.

The Zimbabwe Economic Policy Analysis and Research Unit (ZEPARU) with financial and technical assistance from the USAID SERA Program held a 10 day training workshop on Financial Programming and Policy, from 3 – 14 December 2012, at Mandel Training Centre in Harare. The workshop was attended by 24 economists from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ), the Zimbabwe Statistical Agency (ZIMSTAT) and ZEPARU.

Out of the 24 trainees, 19 participated in the USAID SERA survey to assess knowledge retention and on-the-job utilization of the training content in June 2013, 6 months after the course was undertaken.

Table 1: Participants by gender

Status	Workshop participants	6 months ex post training evaluation survey participants
Male	12	9
Female	12	10
Total	24	19

All survey participants reported that the course had presented them with new knowledge and information. 89% rated the amount of new information and knowledge learnt at very high levels with only 2 out of the 19 participants reporting that they received a moderate amount of new information.

Participants gave the following as the most important learning objectives learnt in the course that they did not already know:

- Use of E-views in data entry, trend lines, forecasting
- How to project GDP, inflation, exchange rate using PPP, BOP and the fiscal budget
- Projecting money supply from bottom up and top down
- Understanding consistency and linkages between economic sectors

All 19 participants explained that they retain some knowledge to explain/present a seminar to colleagues on some but not all of the learning objectives, particularly those that have been relevant and applicable to their work. 5 participants stated that they made presentations to co-workers on the highlights and benefits of the workshop after completion, the remaining 14 out of the 19 participants indicated that they had written reports on the highlights of the training which had been circulated to their co-workers while others had discussions with their workmates.

Participants reported that the course has been useful to their job with the majority (79%) rating the practical value and usefulness of the course to the job at very high levels. As economists, participants reported that the course had been useful to them with some emphasizing that in the past, they had only done financial programming using Microsoft Excel and not E-views. However, participants primarily highlighted the lack of E-views software and the serious data gaps in the economy as the principal conditions that limited their ability to use the skills and knowledge gained in this course on their jobs. Responses from participants nonetheless indicate that the course highly met their expectations and addressed Zimbabwean needs and concerns.

The majority of participants (84%) rated the level of difficulty for this course at medium to high levels. 95% of the participants reported that they had put high levels of personal effort into the course. 58 % of the participants indicated that the course length in relation to the course content was too short. The remaining 42% however feel that the 2-week course length was sufficient time relative to course difficulty and content.

All participants reported that they would recommend this course to their colleagues who would improve their modelling skills, enhance their ability to use E-views, understand the different approaches to forecasting and the linkages between economic sectors.

Annex 4: Comments to ZIMSTAT on Microdata Access

Comments to ZIMSTAT on the UNECE document: Principles and Guidelines for Managing Statistical Confidentiality and Microdata Access

3 May, 2013

This note has been drafted by the USAID SERA program in consultation with the UNDP, DFID and the World Bank. The document therefore incorporates the views of all four agencies.

1. Comments on UN Guidelines

The UNECE Guidelines provide an excellent basis for establishing rules and procedures for managing the release of anonymized microdata for statistical purposes. There can be no disagreement on the Core Principles presented in the UN document. We concur, in particular, the sixth UN Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics, on confidentiality, stating that:

“Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether or not they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.”

However, the Guidelines also state that “making available microdata for research is not in contradiction of the sixth UN Fundamental Principle as long as it is not possible to identify data referring to any individual or entity.” Legitimate research use of microdata should never involve efforts to identify any individual or entity. Procedures are needed to ensure that this does not occur.

We also wish to highlight the UN statement that “supporting research is an important function of the National Statistical Offices.” Indeed, the key objectives of the UN document include “facilitating better access to microdata by the research community for worthwhile purposes,” and “enabling countries to improve their arrangements for providing access to microdata.”² As explained in the Guideline, providing access for researchers greatly enhances the value and utilization of data that is produced at high cost.

At the same time, it is clearly essential for any National Statistical Office (NSO) to adhere to all legal provisions on the confidentiality of individual data -- for Zimbabwe, this is Section 17 of the Census and Statistics Act of 2007 (discussed below).

Aside from legality, we agree fully on the need for establishing transparent systems for handling microdata, in order to maintain trust in the community at all levels that information about any particular individual or entity will be fully confidential.

Fundamentally, we agree with the UN Guideline’s conclusion that these considerations, taken together, call for an appropriate risk management strategy for release of microdata. That strategy must suit the operational conditions facing ZIMSTAT with regard to funding and capacity constraints. This implies the application of relatively simple, yet sound and effective, approaches to ensure confidentiality.

² The third key objective of the document is “fostering greater uniformity of approaches by countries,” but this point is attenuated by recognition that arrangements will necessarily vary depending on factors such as the level of statistical development, public attitudes, and capacity to support the research community.

2. Considerations

- Statistical agencies have a comparative advantage in the production and dissemination of statistics. The research community has a comparative advantage in using the data to conduct statistical analysis for academic and policy research. This division of labour is especially important where the statistical agency faces serious resource and personnel constraints.
- The provision of quality statistics for research is included in one of the strategic goals of ZIMSTAT's NSDS. The release of microdata is essential for achieving this goal.
- Many developing countries have already developed systems for the release of microdata, including South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Uganda – in every case with full consideration of confidentiality provisions of the law. Some of these countries release microdata for public use, while others have a standard licensing procedure or case-by-case conditional access.
- In legislation we have examined for several countries, what is prohibited is the release of data that allows identification of a person -- not the release of data at the micro-record level. This is consistent with Section 17.1.b of the Census and Statistics Act for Zimbabwe, which prohibits the disclosure of any particulars "so arranged as to enable the identification of the person by whom or on whose behalf the return was made, form was submitted, or answer was given." Given this language in the Act, we anticipate that microdata sets that have been adequately anonymized will easily pass the legal test in Zimbabwe.
- We also note that Section 19 of the Act authorizes the Director-General to "ensure that the results of any census or statistical survey" are released for general dissemination, as long as the quality and accuracy have been ascertained and confidentiality secured with respect to any individual.
- Specialized software to anonymize the data is not used to prepare LSMS microdata for release.. Instead they use straightforward techniques such as suppressing identity fields, and geographic aggregation. In developed countries, the use of sophisticated software is motivated in part by the enormous amount of household and individual data available through commercial data set, which opens the possibility for individual identification through linking and matching.
- In Zimbabwe, the scope for this practice is virtually nil if the microdata is properly anonymized using traditional low-tech methods. The risk is even smaller if the release of microdata is limited to statistical use by researchers under a standardized licensing agreement. In short, the application of sophisticated software to anonymize household data is not necessary.

3. Suggestion on the Way Forward

We propose for consideration by ZIMSTAT the following approach for quickly developing systems for the release of microdata while guaranteeing confidentiality, maintaining trust, and ensuring accountability:

1. Begin with recent household or individual surveys, leaving the question of business surveys for later consideration. We suggest starting with the PICES results and the Labour Force Survey results as pilot tests for the development of standard procedures.
2. Develop effective systems for creating Anonymized Microdata Files (AMFs) from household or individual surveys, using techniques that preserve the quality of the data for research purposes (see section 4).
3. Develop pragmatic and efficient Guidelines for the release of the AMFs for household and individual surveys (see section 5).

Obtain formal legal opinion from at least 2 well qualified sources to ensure that the proposed systems and Guidelines comply with sections 17 and 19 of the Act. It might also be useful to seek an initial legal opinion on the interpretation of 17.1(b) before putting resources into steps 2 and 3 cited above.

5. We agree with the view expressed by the DG on the value of seeking Board approval for the systems and guidelines, once legal opinion is secured to ensure compliance with the Act.
6. Once approved, the Guidelines should be posted on the ZIMSTAT website along with a clear and concise statement emphasizing ZIMSTAT's overriding commitment to protecting the confidentiality of individual data. For the sake of emphasis and transparency, this statement can be placed on the home page.

4. Anonymizing Microdata Files

We suggest for consideration by ZIMSTAT the following technical procedure may be used for creating Anonymized MicroData Files (AMFs) from household or individual surveys such as PICES, DHS, MIMS, and the Labour Force Survey, among others.

1. Strip out all individual identifiers, such as name, address, and phone numbers.
2. Aggregate geographic codes to a level that effectively masks individual locations.
3. These procedures should preserve sufficient information on primary sampling units to allow researchers to calculate standard errors.
4. Constructed household identifiers should be included to allow researchers to merge separate data files, without revealing individual identities.

5. Suggested Guidelines and Procedures

We suggest for consideration by ZIMSTAT the following guidelines and procedures may be used for releasing microdata:

1. Produce and post on the ZIMSTAT website public-use meta-data describing variable names, definitions, and basic statistical properties for each microdata set. This will allow interested parties to submit well-specified requests for access to the microdata.
2. The guidelines should allow the release of AMFs to researchers for specified purposes on the basis of a standard license agreement. For this purpose, ZIMSTAT can be readily adapted from the uniform Memorandum of Understanding used by IPUMS—International or the Integrated European Census Data websites.³ Among other things, this agreement can include:
 - a) Specification that ZIMSTAT retains full copyright ownership to the data.
 - b) Specification by the researcher of the data fields or modules to be released;
 - c) Specification by the researcher of the research use
 - d) Limitation to that specified use, as approved by ZIMSTAT;
 - e) Prohibition of any effort by the researcher(s) to identify individuals through data matching or any other method;
 - f) Prohibition of any release of the microdata files to third parties without prior written approval from ZIMSTAT;
 - g) Requirement to furnish ZIMSTAT with copies of research products and allow ZIMSTAT to comment on the research products within a stipulated time frame (such as 2 weeks);

³ See <http://www.ipums.org/international>, and Annex 1.23 of the published version of the UNECE Guidelines.

- h Stipulation of the consequences for any breach of agreement, drawing on the UN guidelines, pag 8 and 18.
3. For extra security, the guidelines may provide for a Disclosure Review by an advisory committee that includes at least one outside expert.
 4. The guidelines should allow the release of special data tables on request. Since the compilation of special tables places extra demands on ZIMSTAT staff, approvals should be limited until such time as ZIMSTAT is more fully staffed.
 5. The guidelines should allow the release of Public Use Microdata at the discretion of the DG (under Section 19 of the Act) and conditional on a technical review process to ensure anonymity of the data. For the immediate future, it may be best to withhold this option due to concerns about public perceptions on data release.
 6. The guidelines should also allow the option of working on-site within ZIMSTAT on research involving microdata that cannot otherwise be released, again subject to the discretion of the DG.

6. Assistance from Donors

Donor support is likely to be available in response to requests from ZIMSTAT, including:

- Technical assistance in developing guidelines, technical procedures, and the standard license agreement.
- Funding to cover the cost of vetting compliance with sections 17 and 19 of the Act.
- Funding for procurement of specialized software for anonymizing data, if required, and technical assistance for training ZIMSTAT staff in the use of this software.

To reduce costs and maximize the research value of ZIMSTAT data sets, ZIMSTAT may wish to consider using NADA, a web-based cataloguing system that serves as a portal for researchers to browse and apply for access to selected AMFs of special interest to researchers. The application is used by a diverse and growing number of national, regional, and international organizations and is available through IHSN.

7. Conclusion

The discussion above has highlighted the need to establish effective risk management procedures for releasing anonymized microdata to researchers for statistical purposes, in order to maximize the value of survey data collected by ZIMSTAT. This is fully consistent with the objectives and procedures contained in the UN Guidelines.

We therefore request a meeting with ZIMSTAT management, at your earliest convenience, to discuss the best approach for facilitating development of the required procedures.