



Country Specific Information: Zimbabwe
U.S. Agency for International Development
Office of Food for Peace

Fiscal Year 2013: Title II Request for Applications
Title II Development Food Assistance Programs

Summary

The U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) anticipates that funds and commodities will be available for Title II development food assistance programming in Zimbabwe in fiscal year (FY) 2013. The anticipated FFP funding for this program is approximately \$20 million annually for five years in support of up to two awards, subject to the availability of funds and commodities. At this time, USAID does not plan on providing Community Development Funds (CDF) for Zimbabwe, but reserves the right to replace the monetization components of programs if CDF do become available. Thus, applications should not include CDF requests at this time. The country specific information supplements FFP's FY 2013 Title II Request for Applications (RFA). Both documents must be used for developing an application for submission.

Current Food Security Situation in Zimbabwe

Despite gradual improvements, chronic food insecurity continues to plague Zimbabwe. Initial recovery has met obstacles related to low liquidity and a massive shift in production from large-scale commercial producers to smallholder farmers, following the chaotic land reform process. The July 2012 *Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee* (ZimVAC) report estimated that about 1.668 million people in rural areas will need food assistance during the 2012-2013 hunger season, comprising approximately 19 percent of the total rural population (about 8.7 million people). This represents an increase of 61 percent or more than 600,000 people from the previous year, and illustrates the vulnerability caused by reliance on rain-fed agriculture. Matabeleland North and South, and Masvingo provinces recorded the highest food insecurity prevalence and experienced the highest maize prices in 2011-2012.

Although the availability of food throughout Zimbabwe has improved, chronic malnutrition rates remain high. The 2010-2011 *Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey (DHS)* showed consistent stunting rates in children under five, with 34 percent in 1999, 35 percent in 2005-2006, and 32 percent in 2010-2011. The 2010 *Zimbabwe National Nutrition Survey* found stunting rates above 35 percent in 24 of the 60 rural districts. The report also indicated that very few young children consume the recommended number of meals or the recommended number of food groups for their age—protein-rich foods such as eggs, meat, milk products, and legumes are rarely included in the diets of young children.

Programming Priorities for Title II Resources in Zimbabwe

Overview

FFP's program strategy is shifting to longer-term development programming that aims to reduce chronic food insecurity and undernutrition and to decrease the number of Zimbabweans requiring emergency food assistance. The program development objective is to sustainably increase food security among vulnerable populations in Zimbabwe. FFP seeks applications for a development food aid program in Zimbabwe that will focus on: (1) increasing household and micro-enterprise productivity and income through market-orientated approaches; (2) improving nutrition among women of reproductive age, pregnant and lactating women, and children under five; and (3) increasing household resilience to shocks. Applications must address both the root causes of chronic food insecurity as well as chronic malnutrition, with an integrated nutrition approach.

Development Approach and Sustainability

FFP seeks to implement effective models, build capacity, and create an enabling environment adapted to the Zimbabwe context. Therefore, applicants must provide an overall development strategy that seeks to create, wherever possible, self-financing and self-transferring models that will continue to spread under their own momentum both during and after the project. It is the expectation that these models will be adopted and adapted by a significant proportion of the population. Many examples of this type of intervention exist but one particularly successful example of this type of model is the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) system that is spreading in Niger. A paper describing this system can be found here: <http://www.ifpri.org/publication/agroenvironmental-transformation-sahel>.

For the program to be successful, sustainability must be built into the program from its conception. Applications should place strategic importance on sustainability during all levels of program design, including nutrition interventions. Applicants should identify linkages with key local stakeholders, including local authorities and community-based organizations. Applicants should propose a basket of interventions that will lift households from food insecurity. This should include a rigorous analysis of potential impact of proposed livelihood and agricultural (including livestock) interventions using market research, household economy analysis, and economic modeling, such as investment vs. outcome, crop budgets, and projected household cash flow statements. Interventions must be evidence-based and discuss implementation in the Zimbabwean context taking into consideration cultural and religious practices of the target population.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to focus on market linkages from the outset of the project, create early linkages with key strategic businesses and other members of the private sector, and mainstream market development into program interventions, where appropriate. Proposed interventions must be guided by a market analysis to ensure sufficient demand exists to sustainably support the increased production of any livestock, agriculture-related, or off-farm products. Applicants must have a defined method to rationalize crops, livestock, and other income-generating interventions based on financial analysis at the community and household levels. To this end, FFP recommends that partners engage a strong technical lead to implement proposed market interventions, which have been proven to increase income of poor households. While improved quantity and quality of production is important,

considerable attention must be directed to the actual impact on income, resilience, maternal and child nutritional status, and food security at the household level.

Geographic Priorities

The FFP Title II development food aid program will target rural areas—including rural service centers—with the highest levels of food insecurity and historic need for humanitarian assistance, specifically the provinces of Matabeleland North and South, Manicaland, and Masvingo. FFP expects a focus on specific districts and wards with intensive activities rather than a widespread blanket approach in all areas. Targeting should be based on prevalence of stunting, historical needs for food assistance, population demographics, and agro-ecological zones, as well as the ability to monitor program sites at all times. Applicants should recognize the potential for strategic partnerships in all provinces. Applicants may propose interventions in districts where FFP activities are currently operational. However, the application must substantiate proposed target areas based on comparative need, activity sequencing, and potential return on investment to the beneficiary household.

Beneficiaries

Title II programs must target food insecure households, with the appropriate basket of interventions in the correct sequence, in order to ensure reduced food insecurity and long-term sustainability. Applicants must develop a transparent selection process to target food-insecure and poor households who have the commitment and the physical means to engage in targeted interventions. Appropriate interventions should target beneficiaries, with the overall aim of moving households and communities “up the ladder” to become more resilient and more food secure.

To achieve compounding returns in food security status and maximize U.S. Government resources, a layering approach to household interventions is encouraged. This approach should target the same communities and households for both maternal and child health and nutrition and livelihood interventions, with the hope of building linkages to other donor and USAID-funded activities.

Programmatic Priorities / Types of Activities

To sustainably reduce food insecurity in Zimbabwe, a highly selective package of activities must be designed to address the underlying factors of food insecurity and undernutrition as well as an integrated set of activities that aim to boost household productivity and income. Interventions should be context-specific, tailored to individual households and communities, and not a one-size-fits-all approach. With greater diversity in agricultural productivity and income sources, rural households will benefit from increased income and greater resilience to shocks, and decreased reliance on rain-fed agriculture. This approach is intended to yield compounding returns in food security status by simultaneously addressing its three underlying causes—food availability, access, and utilization. Cross-cutting issues such as market development, environment, youth engagement, and gender should be incorporated throughout, and interventions should be fully integrated to maximize the development impact. Examples of program activities could include, but are not limited to:

Addressing immediate food insecurity:

- Incorporate Food for Assets (FFA) and/or Cash for Assets (CFA) activities to improve household and community food security and build household and community resilience to shocks giving preference to the creation of community (public goods) rather than private assets. FFA and CFA must be in line with GoZ Community Public Works guidelines and district and community development plans.

Promoting improved and appropriate technologies, agricultural productivity, and best practices:

- Introduce new and improved crop varieties and agricultural investments that improve drought resistance, improve food security and nutritional impact, and create potential market linkages. Relevant technologies could include the introduction of alternative or small grains, drought-tolerant crops, fruit trees, fish farming, beekeeping, dairy, livestock, seed security and poultry.
- Provide training to improve soil fertility and crop management. This could include conservation farming, crop rotation, integrated nutrient management, and crop preservation and storage techniques to reduce post-harvest losses.
- Promote a package of pre- and post-harvest interventions to reduce toxins and contamination.
- Promote integrated livestock management interventions, including fodder production, holistic land usage, dip tanks, training in animal husbandry, and education on the treatment of livestock as business rather than a savings mechanism.
- Rehabilitate and create new irrigation schemes in appropriate areas, and promote use of small-scale, low-cost, gravity-fed irrigation designs that include conditions for covering operational and recurring maintenance costs.
- Train farmers in basic business practices.

Increasing market access, information, and orientation:

- Support village-based, informal savings groups to assist with market access and small scale initiatives. Establish and strengthen economic opportunities for women and youth, including income-generating activities and access to markets.
- Link to existing market programs operated by USAID or other donors.
- Increase economies of scale and reduce transaction costs, including a geographic focus for participation in a specific value chain.

Improving maternal and child health and nutrition outcomes:

- For guidance on maternal and child health and nutrition interventions, please refer to the RFA on the “First 1,000 Days Approach: Preventing Chronic Malnutrition.”
- Title II programs should create linkages with the Ministry of Health, specifically the community infant and young child feeding (IYCF) activities, USAID, and other donor health and nutrition activities where there are overlaps in specific geographic regions.
- Increase household dietary diversity, diet quality and income through homestead food production (such as home gardens, poultry and other small livestock programs) taking into consideration issues around women’s workload.
- Improve household and community water, sanitation, and hygiene practices.
- Link community based food for assets activities to demonstrated community commitments to improved health seeking, hygiene and sanitation behaviors among pregnant and lactating

women and improved behaviors around the care and feeding practices for children under the age of two.

Enhancing resilience and risk management:

- Implement livelihood-centered disaster risk reduction activities and planning.
- Promote community-based seed security schemes.

Improving natural resource management:

- Create an integrated watershed approach for improved soil and water conservation to improve water infiltration and reduce soil erosion and runoff.
- Facilitate multi-use water management activities that improve the reliability of water sources for vulnerable households and livestock use. This can include catchment management, stream bank protection, designated livestock watering points, and water harvesting.
- Protect and revitalize the natural resource base for improved harvesting of non-timber forest products such as resins, mopane worms, and other products.
- Engage in climate change mitigation and adaptation programs.

Emergency Contingencies and Response Strategy

Applicants should assume that Zimbabwe's food security situation will continue on a positive trajectory. However, climatic or political shocks may occur resulting in a food security crisis. Applications should briefly describe contingency plans for each scenario ensuring that programming during these periods of emergency should, at minimum, protect assets and past investments.

Program Linkages

Linkages to other USAID-funded activities, to other donor activities, and to basic services will be important to create a layering approach for the household to benefit from multiple interventions focusing on food security, health, HIV/AIDS prevention, education, and economic opportunities. Applications should clearly define how Title II resources will complement and enhance current and future programs supported by USAID, other donors and development actors. Applications should specifically address coordination and complementarity with the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) seasonal targeted assistance program and the Ministry of Social Services harmonized cash transfer program. Programs should clearly define existing structures and opportunities for working collaboratively within and across sectors.

Strategic Partnerships

Successful implementation of the program will require the creation of strategic partnerships with the GoZ through its line ministries at the national level as well as through district and local government authorities. Coordination should take place within appropriate district mechanisms and include the Ministry of Agriculture, extension agents from the Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX), the Department of Livestock Development and Production (LPD), District Social Services Officers and participants from the Ministry of Health, among others. Coordination with the GoZ must follow the existing USG regulatory and policy framework and limitations. GoZ policies, guidelines, and district development plans and structures should be used, where possible. The program must also

create sustainable relationships with agricultural extension agents and support from the GoZ once the program is complete.

Gender

Please refer to the RFA for information on gender.

Supporting Information

Additional information including maps of current FFP and USAID Economic Growth and Health activities are included in this solicitation. The Bellmon Estimation Studies for Title II (BEST) analysis for Zimbabwe is available on the [USAID BEST website](#).

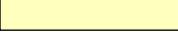
USAID Zimbabwe Health Population and Nutrition Program Areas

Legend

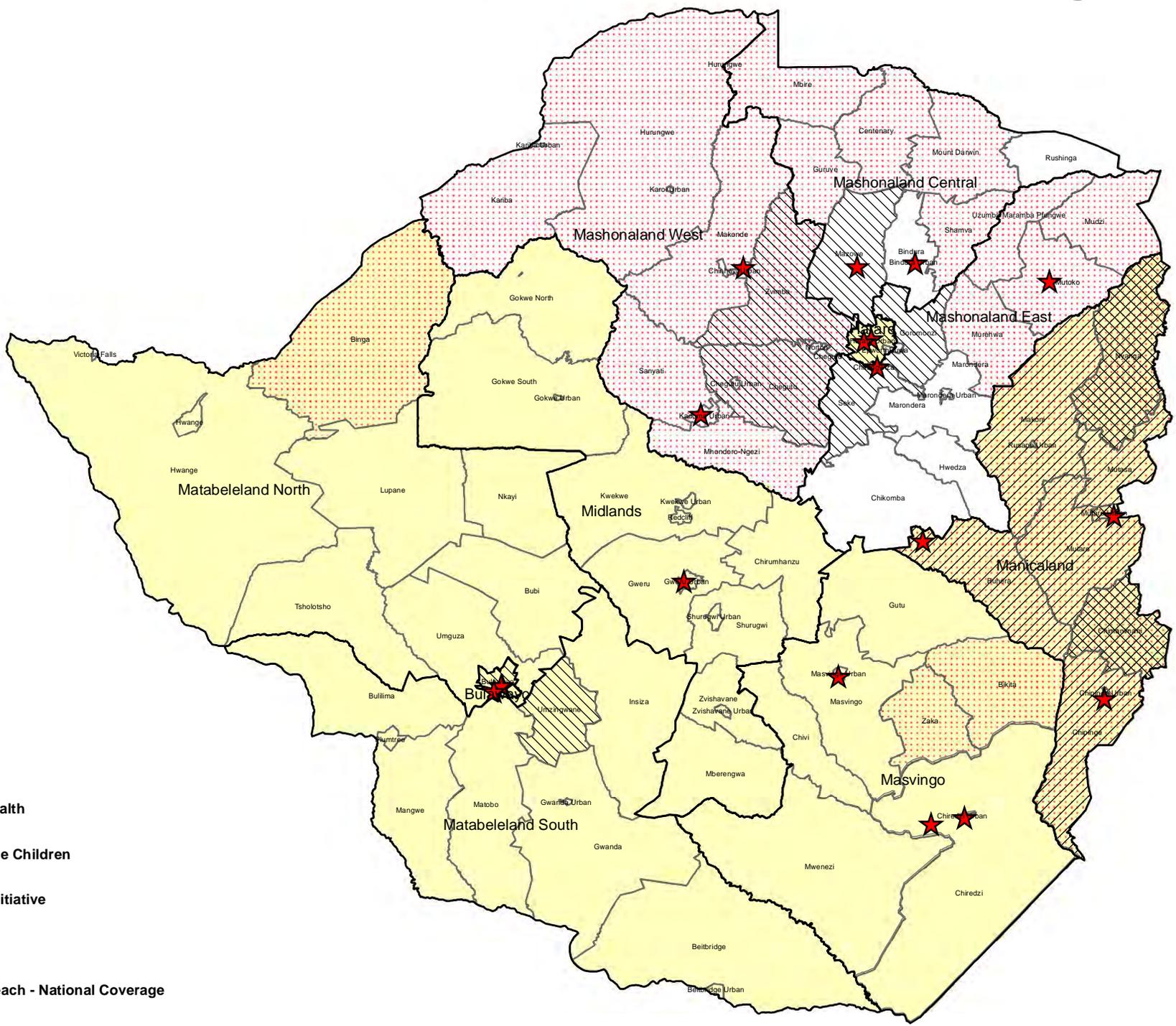
- VCT Centres
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- Maternal and Child Health

- Ophans and Vulnerable Children

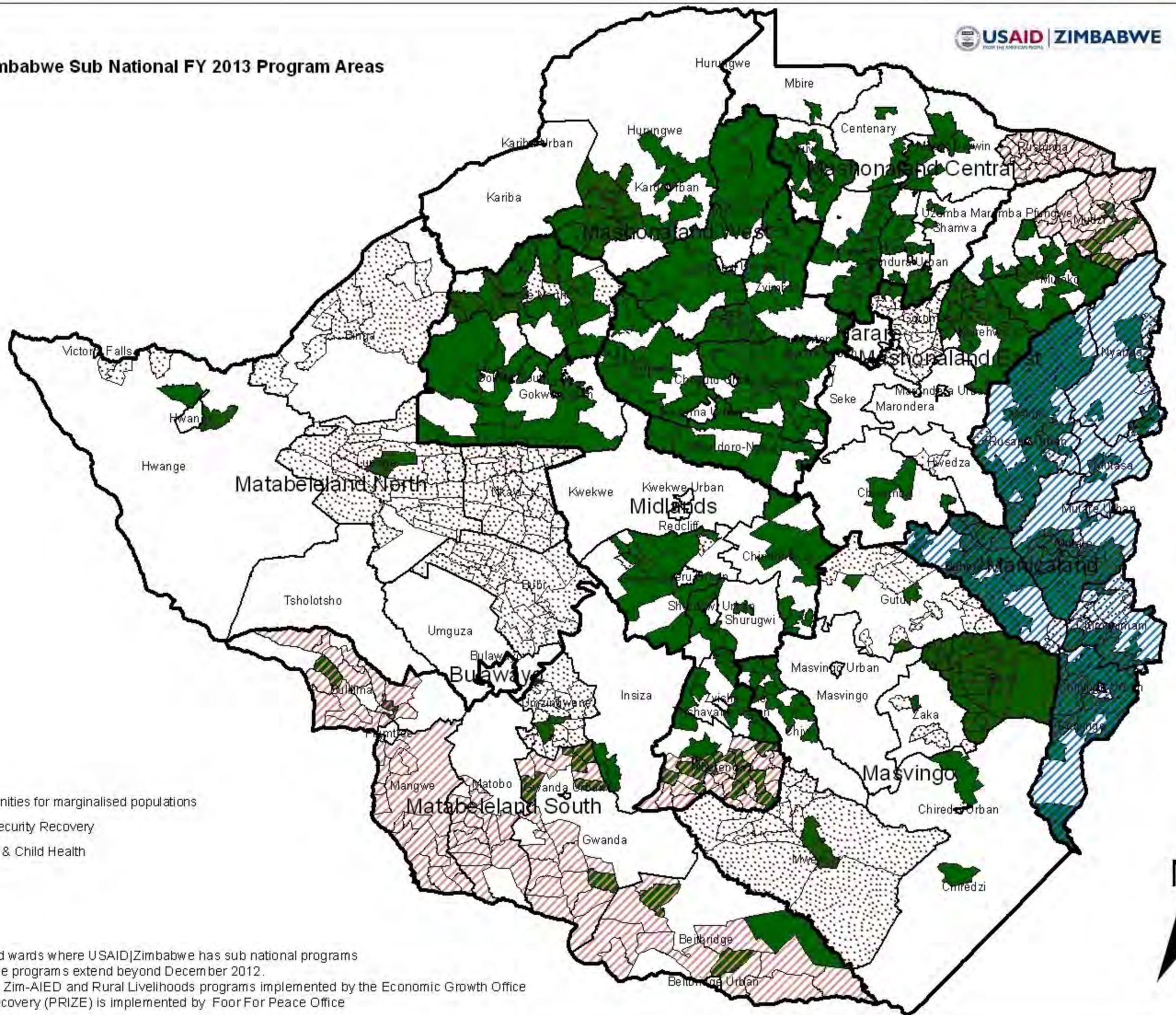
- Presidential Malaria Initiative

- Tuberculosis

- Family Planning Outreach - National Coverage

- HIV/AIDS (ART, PMTCT, VCT) - National Coverage

USAID|Zimbabwe Sub National FY 2013 Program Areas



Legend

-  Province
-  District
-  Economic Opportunities for marginalised populations
-  Promoting Food Security Recovery
-  Maternal Neonatal & Child Health
-  Market linkages



This Map shows districts and wards where USAID|Zimbabwe has sub national programs being implemented and these programs extend beyond December 2012. Market Linkages include the Zim-AIED and Rural Livelihoods programs implemented by the Economic Growth Office. Promoting Food Security Recovery (PRIZE) is implemented by Foor For Peace Office.