

BASELINE REPORT

Project Name: Assisting vulnerable food insecure households recovery from mid-season drought and erratic rainfall

Country: Zimbabwe
Agreement Number: 72OFDA18GR00177

Contact Person: HQ: Sena Dzakuma
Senior Program Officer
sena.dzakuma@care.org
404 979 9051
CARE USA (HQ)

Field: Monique Morazian
Assistant Country Director
Monique.Morazian@care.ca
+26377125247
CARE Zimbabwe

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PROJECT AND BASELINE

Provide a general overview of the project and aim of baseline study in one or two paragraphs.

CARE International in Zimbabwe is implementing a 12-month OFDA funded project in Gwanda and Beitbridge district of Matabeleland South Province. The area is characterized by extensive farming ,where livestock production is domineering and small grains production is the gateway to maintaining food security levels. The current funding opportunity through OFDA aims to address the immediate agricultural and financial needs of the most vulnerable households to recover from: the impact of successive drought years, erratic rainfalls, mid-season dry spells, and prevent potential food insecurity. The declining macroeconomic conditions and lack of development at the national level have compounded the impact of the droughts and hindered recovery resulting in negative coping strategies as the majority of vulnerable households are selling productive assets (mainly livestock) through the previous season and consequently ad libitum before the coming farming season.

The proposed interventions are designed to enhance food security and livelihood needs in the targeted districts through two broad sectors which are Agriculture and Food Security and Economic Recovery and Market Systems as shown in table 1 below.

Table 1: programming Sectors under the OFDA Project

SECTOR	Sub sector
Agriculture and food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock • Pests and Pesticides • Seed Systems Security • Improving Agriculture Production/Food Security
Economic Recovery and Market Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livelihoods Restoration • Financial Services

Project activities will focus on improved livestock (goats and poultry) production and sustainable drought tolerant cropping (promoting small grains) as a strategy to address food security which will benefit more women who traditionally own and control only small livestock. This is likely to increase family food security and financial income flows there by reducing over dependence on one line of cash flow from the husband there by reducing gender balance. The proposed livelihoods interventions will support and strengthen existing Village Savings and Loan groups to expand their financial base while promoting food

security through related income generating activities. Disaster Risk Reduction is additionally integrated into the participatory scenario planning aiding communities to build resilience, enhance farmer response mechanisms and their ability to adapt to the unpredictable weather patterns that have hindered agricultural activities in successive droughts.

CARE International through funding from OFDA conducted a baseline study in order to provide an information base against which to monitor and assess the project activities' progress and effectiveness during implementation and after the proposed activities are completed. The results from the study will help to establish good dataset of the current state of activities that will provide a basis for decision making with regards to targeting and realignment of resources if need be. The baseline study is aimed to gather appropriate data so as to enable the project to measure the project outcomes with regards to the food security of the targeted communities in the drought and marginalized wards of Gwanda and Beitbridge whilst benchmarking inputs and outputs against project performance. Other critical aspects driving the study was validate the relevance, effectiveness and impact of proposed interventions. The proposed indicators under the two broad programming sectors will be instrumental in this study to ascertain the status quo relating to capacity building, gender issues and the inclusion of women in the project. Using Outcome indicators derived from the projects' proposal, augmented by Economic recovery and Market Systems indicators relating to financial capacity-building and the inclusion of women, the baseline study is aimed to document the initial status of the project beneficiaries with regards to the outlined indicators where project activities are planned to be implemented for comparison. The baseline study will be used to measure change through future evaluations.

METHODS AND DATA SOURCES:

Describe methods used, data sources, an explanation of the data collection process and tools, sample size, and sampling method. Specify if data were collected at the population-level of the implementation area or limited to direct beneficiaries. Primary data is preferred though secondary data is permissible.

Method Used

The project monitoring and evaluation team with support from the country office monitoring and evaluation specialist reviewed the project documents, logical framework, and secondary literatures on beneficiaries' details and Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) as part of project desk review. This has been instrumental in developing the study tools and in revising the research target and has also improved the quality of this report. The evaluation methodology considered stakeholders different operation levels although with complimenting roles. Key informant interviews and focus group discussion were used to tap as much information from the stakeholders.. Structured questionnaires were administered to both project registered farmers and to non-project participants

Sample size

The project has a total target of 7500 small holder farming households. Since the population size that is total number of beneficiaries is known but the degree of variability is unknown, the following formula was used to determine the optimum sample size. $n = N / (1+ND^2)$. Formula for sample size calculation Finite Population: $n=N / (1+ND^2)$ $n =$ Sample size $N =$ Population Size $D =$ Allowable degree of error¹ : This formula is from Kish, Survey Sampling, (Wiley, 1965¹) By using the formula 95% confidence interval was obtained and 5% allowable error and the optimum sample size was calculated to be 380, where $N=7500$

¹ Note: This formula is from Kish, Survey Sampling, (Wiley, 1965

D=0.05. Therefore, a sample size of 400 farmer (direct beneficiaries) was used for the baseline study and an extra 20 farmers from non-project participants as a point of reference. Four qualitative focus groups were conducted two per each district, key informant interviews focusing on district and ward stakeholders were also conducted. Secondary data was also reviewed and observations used as data collection methods. The questionnaire included 71 quantitative questions with critical questions being asked in multiple ways in order to verify data. However, after data collection, a total of 413 individuals were interviewed. Modified systematic random sampling technique was used for sample selection which is widely used as a probability sampling method. The rationale for choosing this technique is its simplicity and it also gives assurance that the population is evenly sampled. The project targeted 10 wards from a total of 20 targeted wards across the two districts (Beitbridge and Gwanda).

LOCATION AND TIMING:

List where and when you collected the data for the baseline report

The baseline study survey took place from 29 October to 02 November 2018 in both Beitbridge and Gwanda Districts. A structured questionnaire was developed based on the literature review and also in consultation with the project staff. The questionnaire was pretested during a one-day enumerator training. The study focused on the two project sectors' key indicators for tracking progress and results of the programme extracted from the project proposal, which will lead to the development of the Programme Performance Measurement Framework. See below the two tables where showing the wards and villages covered by this study

Table 2 Beitbridge and Gwanda baseline district coverage

District	Ward No	Village Name	No of HHs	# of Individuals	District	Ward No	Village Name	No of HHs	# of Individuals
Beitbridge	1	Chitulipasi-Flora Moyo	6	53	Gwanda	4	Lumene	14	111
		Chitulipas Samson	11	81			Mahlokohloko	11	95
		Chitulipasi Mbedzi	8	56			Manonkwe	4	19
		Chitulipas David	5	35			Nkwidzi	3	14
		Chitulipsi Ngulube	7	62			Polite	5	47
	2	Chabili	14	76			Stanmore	7	76
		Chapongwe	5	31			5	Village 1	4
		Dite	22	143		Village 3		14	108
		Lukange	1	6		Village 4		6	104
		Tshittivhu	1	5		Village 6		15	119
	6	Makakavhule	15	89		8	Mayezane	9	80
		Malala	12	63			Sizeze	28	221
		Mtetengwe	10	57			Sitezi	6	33
	9	Malibeng	10	82		14	Bhandani	4	12
		Swereki	15	90			Sengezane	21	161
		Toporo	15	122			Sezhubabe	21	177
	10	Dendele	20	132		17	Fumukwe	4	29

Total		Dombo	15	117	Total		Humbane	14	97
		Nobe	2	15			Gohole	7	57
		Vutturura	5	24			Mnyabetsi	11	64
							Magaya	4	21
	5 wards	20 Villages	201 HHs	1339		5 wards	21 villages	212 HHs	1694

Total number of individuals in the households interviewed is 3033 individuals, of which 1820 are females

And 1213 Males

LIMITATIONS

Describe limitations in your baseline methodology or challenges you encountered while conducting the study.

The major limitations centered on long distances travelled as the ward targeting process had to consider climate variability associated with targeted wards. Wards experience slight climatic variability and man-made climatic influences in form of irrigation activities. The project targets had to consider these differences. This guaranteed a true representation of the geographical and climatic differences experienced within the two districts.

FINDINGS

For every indicator in your proposal, state the baseline value and target, including any disaggregation. If targets need to be updated from the proposal submission, include them here.

Indicator	Target Value	Baseline Value	Comments	
Sector Name: AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY				
Subsector Name: 1.1 Livestock				
Indicator 1: Number of people benefiting from livestock activities	1600 (960 women & 640 men)	71	Baseline analysis shows that 4.4% of the farmers are benefiting from livestock distribution schemes and 93.9% do not buy stock feeds due to unavailability of local veterinary shops. 49.6% travel more than 5km to access the veterinary shops.	
Indicator 2: Number of animals benefiting from livestock activities	116700	37500 Cattle	8625	76.8% do not prepare fodder. 85% do not buy stock feeds culminating to 23% being supported by other partners operating in the area. 33% do protect their animals through dipping
		60 000 goats	5400	91% do not buy feeds the 9% ijs being supported buy other partners operating in the in the area
		19 200 poultry	1152	93.9% do not buy feeds 6.1% is currently being supported by other partners
Indicator 3: Number of animals owned per individual	5 cattle	4.2	Cattle ownership Beitbridge is an average of 5/farmer or HH. Gwanda is 3.4 source <i>Matabeleland South Van Rooyen</i> . On cattle ownership, 43% of the respondents do not own cattle, 55% own 2 or less and 63.5% indicated to have 5 or less cattle. 36.5% had more than 6 cattle with 3.4% of the households reporting to have as many as between 20-50 cattle	
	20 goats & sheep,	14.2	The initial target need changing from 8 to 20 goats. Triangulation of data shows that baseline data is higher than the initial project target. Goats are more significant. Hence increased target 20 considering the 5% increase rate of goats. Information obtained from the survey indicated that 13% do not own goats, 20% own 2 or less goats and 46% own 5 and less 5 goats. Over 54% own more than 5 goats. About 50% of our target clients are already above	

			the project threshold of 5 goats with about 30% having more than 10 goats.
	15 poultry	10	Source Matabeleland South livestock ownership study by Van Rooyen
Indicator 4: Number of people trained in livestock	300 (180 women & 120 men)	81	According to the baseline findings 27% had training in animal health and only 20% of the farmers had training in fodder production. Hence the proposed trainings on livestock production, health and management are relevant this context so that the targeted farmers are capacitated and informed animal health and diseases management.
Subsector Name: 1.2 Pests and Pesticides			
Indicator 1: Number of people trained in appropriate crop protection practices	5 000 (3 000 women & 2 000 men)	1000	20% of farmers have been trained in post-harvest management making the proposed post-harvest and management and seed retention training relevant to boost the number of farmers who by the end of the project are equipped to make use of appropriate crop protection practices.
Indicator 2: Number and percentage of hectares protected against diseases or pests attack	16 250 (50%)	0	To be measured at project implementation
Indicator 3: Number and percentage of people practicing appropriate crop protection procedures	5000 (50 %) (3000women & 2000 men)	1350	25, 75% use all 4 CA principles whilst 27.3% use at least three methods. It is recommended to use at least 3 methods to be considered as using appropriate crop protection according to the baseline conducted
Subsector Name: 1.3			
Indicator 1: Number of months of household food self-sufficiency as a result of seed system security programming	8 months	0	To be measured at post harvest stage currently 50% of households are just 3 months food secure but not as a result of seed systems security programing.
Indicator 2: Number of people directly benefiting from seed systems/agricultural input activities	25 000 (15 000 women & 10 000 men)	0	Baseline was conducted before inputs were distributed
Indicator 3 : Percentage of households with access to sufficient seed to plant	30	21	Baseline shows that only 21% had certified seed which they could buy from their local shops. Above 70% came from NGOs and government schemes. These sources are

			not permanent sources of seed with the current project being another source of seed to enhance food security.
Subsector 1.4: Improving agricultural production/food security			
Indicator 1: Number of months of household food self-sufficiency as a result of improved agricultural production programming	8	0	To be established at post- harvest. Baseline results show that 50% of the households were just 3 months food secure.
Indicator 2: Number of people directly benefiting from improving agricultural production and/or food security activities	27500(16500F:11000 M)	0	Baseline was conducted before inputs were distributed. To be established after input distribution.
Indicator 3: Number of hectares under improved agricultural methods	16250	3575	27% of farmers are practicing CA using at least 3 of the CA principles.
Indicator 4: Prevalence of households with moderate to severe hunger (Household Hunger Scale)	Beitbridge 9.7% Gwanda 14.8%	4.9% 7.4%	Source ZimVAC 2018 project targeting to improve hunger score by 50%
Sector 2 Economic Recovery and Market Systems			
Sub-sector 2.1: Livelihoods Restoration			
Indicator 1: Number of people assisted through livelihood restoration activities	500 (300 women & 200 men)	0	This will be established during project routine monitoring after the project has trained and revived old groups no longer functioning.
Indicator 2: Percentage of beneficiaries reporting net income from their livelihood	70	0	This aspect will be established during project implementation and monitoring.
Sub-sector 2.2: financial Services			
Indicator 1: Number of people and/or MSEs participating in financial services with USAID assistance	2000 (1200 women & 800 men)	1500	75% of the interviewed households are participating in VS&L these were trained by USAID PRIZE project and other partners. The efficiency of the groups is the major challenge. The project to train new groups as well as conduct refresher training to existing groups.
Indicator2: Percentage of financial service accounts/groups supported by USAID	80%	0	This will be measured during project process monitoring, but baseline report shows that 30.5% of trained cluster facilitators are not visible at all and 42.5 % are fairly visible .This indicates the need

that are functioning properly		for refresher training and rapid assessment on challenges faced by this group as it has a direct influence to group financial group's performance.
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ANALYSIS

Describe if the baseline results will have an impact on your planned program. Will you adjust any approaches or plans as a result? If so, which ones and how?

A total of 413 households were interviewed with 3033 individuals 1820F and 1213 Females. The baseline results have impact on planned program especially if we focus on the livestock sector the key informant interviews and focus group discussions showed that farmers are not using goat dip tanks hence it is advisable to shift resources towards cattle dip tank rehabilitation. Cattle dip tanks are being used effectively as compared to goat dip tanks which are now almost white elephants, as evidenced by observation from the stakeholders who emphasized that it would be good to shift resources towards cattle dip tank rehabilitation, as goat dip tanks previously rehabilitated were not being used at all. The baseline findings support the idea of establishing veterinary shops run by locally based entrepreneurs to reduce the distance and travelling costs incurred by farmers to access veterinary drugs and other services.

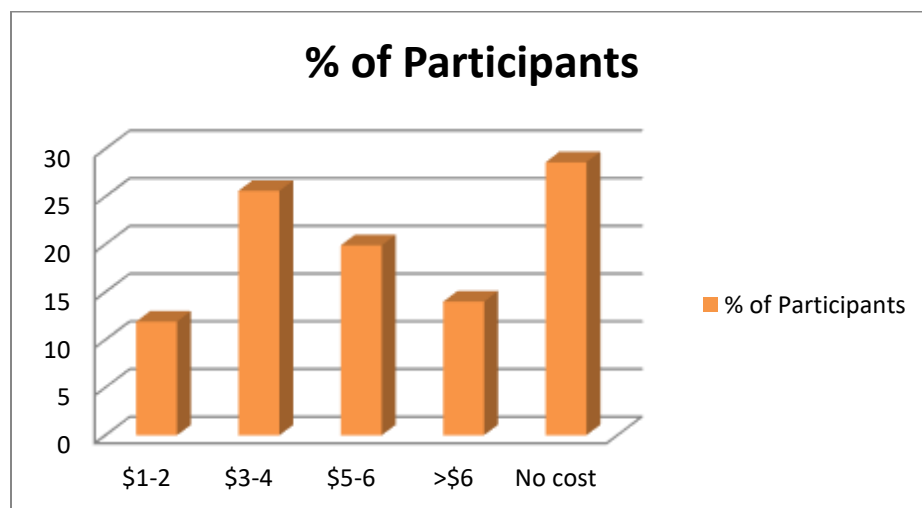


Figure 1 shows travelling costs to the nearest veterinary shops

Figure 1: illustrates why 85% of the farmers do not even buy stock feeds as it is costly to travel to these shops.

- 80% of the farmer's agricultural inputs are from government and non-governmental organizations where sustainability is questionable, hence forth the need to build local capacities on seed retention and multiplication and promotion of local seed banks so as to reduce the dependency syndrome.

- It is interesting to note that 50% of the farmers had their 2017 /18 harvest taking them to just 3 months food security levels and this is attributed to the recurrent droughts in Beitbridge and Gwanda. Food security levels have a tendency of being misrepresented by outlier.

Conclusion: The OFDA funded project conducted this baseline to accord it its importance in the project cycle as a prime tool to collect the baseline data as a determinant to the project level requirements to better inform implementation of appropriate interventions. The study gathered and assessed quantitative and qualitative data from a small, but diverse sample of 10 wards in Gwanda and Beitbridge districts of Matabeleland South province. The results generally show the effects of the mid-season drought affecting 50% of the population, notably with only 3 months food security in 2017/18 agriculture season, due to mid-season drought. Hence the need for drought mitigation strategies in form of livestock support, seed systems and economic recovery and market system to boost their livelihoods opportunities. The collected background information will provide the basis and or inform the software or hardware interventions for this project to ensure the project still remains relevant. Opportunities for future programming were noted to strengthen the seed banking concept so as to reduce dependency as well as at the same time creating and building local capacities to provide seed at household level and the community at large. Whilst the project intended to pilot the agro-dealership model to address the gaps noted in veterinary services especially with the veterinary drugs, there is need for the implementing partner to explore more to strengthen the model to enhance access to veterinary services. CARE sees other programming opportunities in irrigation farming for large scale fodder production to enhance animal or livestock feed security as a majority of the farmers are struggling to buy livestock feed during drought. Hence the need to direct our efforts to address this challenge in these communities where livestock is at the center of their livelihoods. In summary, majority of the proposed interventions remain relevant other than the goat dip tank rehabilitation whom the baseline study participants recommended replacement with the cattle dip tanks as they are not in use.

ANNEX 1:

(OPTION



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