

## Improving lives for poor communities in Zimbabwe

Christian Aid needs your help to bring food security to 1,500 households in Matabeleland in southern Zimbabwe.

**Every £1 donated by Christian Aid supporters will be matched with £9 by the European Commission – multiplying your gift by 10!**

**The people of Zimbabwe have experienced a steady reduction in food security since early 2000 due to a variety of factors.**

The political crisis in Zimbabwe combined with increasingly erratic rainfall and the impact of HIV has led to many communities in Zimbabwe facing serious food shortages. This is the case in Matabeleland as well, with a growing incidence of malnutrition among children. The situation forces able bodied men cross the borders in search of better livelihoods. This exodus is creating a gap in labour and knowledge in the area. The women and children who are mostly left behind face increased demand on them for agricultural and household activities. This is further compounded by the tremendous strain on communities to deliver services and care for HIV and AIDS orphans.

The **overall objective** of the project is to improve the access to reliable food sources for the people living in the districts of Gwanda and Insiza in South Matabeleland. The project aims to work with 1500 households.

Christian Aid concentrates most of its work in Matabeleland, a drought-prone region of southern Zimbabwe. Focusing our efforts means we can find ways for our partners to work together and to reinforce each others' work in order to achieve bigger, deeper and lasting change.

**This project will be implemented by two partners; ZIMPRO and Lutheran Development Services (LDS).** ZIMPRO have been in operation for over 30 years and a partner of Christian Aid since 1994. LDS

started in 1997 and have been partners with Christian Aid since 2003.



### **Issues faced by the community include:**

**Issue:** Insufficient food production.

**Solution:** Zimpro and LDS will increase household crop diversity and production with a focus on small grains, legumes and vegetables to supplement the main cereal, maize.

**Issue:** Poor diet.

**Solution:** The partners will focus on the promotion of vegetable planting and training in nutrition, particularly that of children, pregnant and lactating women and people living with HIV/AIDS. Households will be helped to raise small livestock such as goats, chickens and guinea fowl which in the short to medium term will improve access to eggs, milk and meat, thus improving nutrition.

**Issue:** Inadequate water supplies for domestic and livestock use

**Solution:** This will be addressed by rehabilitation of boreholes and/or construction of rain water harvesting tanks, and training in sanitation. This will reduce water related

illnesses, and reduce time spent collecting water, thus freeing up time for other activities, especially for women.

**Issue:** Overdependence on subsistence farming

**Solution:** The project will improve access to new livelihoods such as small livestock initiatives and the training in care and management of the animals. Livestock will in the long term increase access to different sources of income for the households, thus cushioning them against shocks, such as droughts etc, and improving general livelihoods.

**Issue:** Environmental degradation

**Solution:** Alongside other farming activities Zimpro and LDS will promote; contour ridging to prevent soil erosion; gully reclamation; protect catchment areas where there are existing rivers and other water bodies, and where boreholes have been rehabilitated. They will also reduce the demand on wood through access to energy saving stoves.



**The success** of this project lies mainly in the knowledge and skills transfer and the resultant attitude in behaviour change. Communities seeing increases in crop production and healthier animals by farmers who have been received training are likely to take up the same skills. This will lead to increases in food production with a surplus left to sell improving small farmer's income. Information regarding nutrition and childcare will be passed on to future generations.

**The project will directly affect the lives of 7,500 people. However, as they will share this new knowledge and new skills with their communities, the project will indirectly benefit the entire population of Gwanda and Insiza districts – estimated at 20,708 households.**

#### **Timeframe and funds requested through the Christian Aid Partnership scheme**

The project is planned to run from January 2010 to July 2013. The total budget for the project is £1,080,000. Christian Aid is required to raise £107,328 of this budget, the rest is provided by the European Commission's match funding. This means that for every £1 raised by Christian Aid, another £9 is provided by the European Commission. Christian Aid is seeking to raise at least £70,000 of this money through the Partnership Scheme – your pledge of at least £5,000 will form part of that total.

#### **What feedback will you receive?**

You will receive updates every 3 months, until the work is complete. But if there's anything in particular that your church wants, you should ask for it. Christian Aid is in constant contact with ZIMPRO and LDS and can provide you with photos, posters or presentations – whatever you think will help your fundraising.

**If your church, school or group would like to join our partnership scheme – supporting ZIMPRO and LDS in Zimbabwe, then please contact us at the Partnership scheme: phone: 020 7523 2294 or email: [partnershipscheme@christian-aid.org](mailto:partnershipscheme@christian-aid.org)**

[www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)  
PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT  
[info@christian-aid.org](mailto:info@christian-aid.org)  
Tel 020 7620 4444

UK registered charity number 1105851 Company number 5171525  
Scotland charity number SC039150 NI registered charity number  
XFR944639 NI company number NI059154

Christian Aid has a vision – an end to poverty – and we believe that vision can become a reality. We work with the world's poorest people in around 50 countries, regardless of race or faith. We are part of ACT Alliance, the ecumenical relief and development network.

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