

Donor	GlobalGiving Grants
Project Title:	Restore 600 rural women's livelihoods in Zimbabwe
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Type of Organization:	Non-Profit
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1. Executive Summary

1.1 Background and Overview

1.1.1 Hand in Hand Zimbabwe

Hand in Hand Zimbabwe is a locally registered non-profit rural development organization that has been operational since July 2015 and is part of the Hand in Hand Network. The organization is based in Bulawayo. The purpose of Hand in Hand Zimbabwe is to build socio-economically resilient communities. Our mission is to alleviate poverty amongst resource constraint communities especially women and the youth through capacity development, entrepreneurship and partnerships for sustainable development. This is done through a help to self-help approach. Hand in Hand Zimbabwe's approach is built upon a 4-step wheel model which consists of; 1) social mobilization to form and strengthen self-help groups (SHGs); 2) training in entrepreneurship and economic development; 3) facilitating access to internal and external microloan schemes; 4) market linkage and value addition. The same model adapted to the specific local contexts is shared by Hand in Hand partner organizations in Kenya, India and Afghanistan.

Currently Hand in Hand Zimbabwe is implementing 5 projects namely Jobs Creation Programme (JCP), Motivated Entrepreneurial Youth (MEY), Community Upliftment Programme (CUP), Green Enterprises Project (GEP) and Jobs for Zimbabwe (JFZ). During the past three and half (3.5) years Hand in Hand Zimbabwe has made great strides in mobilizing and capacitating communities to form self-help groups and establish value chain enterprises. This is evidenced by achievements to date with a total of 1551 self-help groups with 14024 members benefiting under the identified projects. In addition, a total of 11205 micro-enterprises have been established and enhanced resulting in 8744 jobs. These enterprises are diverse in nature from market gardening, arts and craft, small livestock rearing, food processing, retailing and a host of other small scale businesses. As much as the organization has made some achievements towards transforming the livelihoods of some of the resource constrained women, there is still need for more funding to reach out for more women.

The projects are implemented in partnership with local Rural District Councils (RDCs), Ministry of Women Affairs Gender, Community and Small and Medium Enterprises Development and Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development among other partners.

1.1.2 Justification

Following years of social and economic instability, Zimbabwe has in recent decades experienced an extreme traumatic political, economic and social crisis. The economic crisis of the past decades has prevented substantial capital investment. Liquidity crunch that the country has been experiencing is affecting the economy in broad. The meltdown of the industry has resulted in job losses and weakening of the social safety net. This caused a perceivable reduction in household incomes and left 80% of the population, mostly located in rural areas, living below the international poverty line (1.25 USD per day). According to ZIMVAC 2017 report, "Decent and secure employment remain subdued and the economy continues to be gripped in the throes of deep and widespread cash shortages that have mainly arisen from sustained higher imports against lower export earnings". As of May 2017, the country was experiencing a cash shortage of USD347 million, which is an improvement from an average shortage of USD450 million experienced during the greater part of 2016 (Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2017). In addition, the rural population depends on natural resources for its livelihoods yet the environmental resource base in

the country is shrinking at an alarming rate due to climate change. In the past two (2) decades, frequent droughts have become a common feature in the region. Desertification is fast encroaching a larger chunk of former productive land hence the environmental capacity to support the human, flora and fauna populations is narrowing. The 2017 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) rural livelihoods report, which estimates food insecurity levels, predicts that “1.1 million Zimbabweans will be unable to access sufficient food during the peak hunger period, January – March 2018”.

Women and youths are highly vulnerable and most prone to suffer economic, social and environmental shocks. Women are predominantly the breadwinners in the rural areas as they are the primary keeper of the household and represent fundamental pillars of the Zimbabweans’ communities. Women are faced with the competing demands of crop (food) production, generating income for the families’ upkeep and providing care for sick family members. Given the foregoing, families particularly female headed households, as well as the elderly looking after the orphans, are failing to cope with challenges of food production and sustainable livelihoods. Despite their key role, they often dispose only a fraction of the generated income and own a nominal percentage of assets in terms of land, farm inputs and have no access to credit.

In an effort to survive the economic meltdown and the effects of the poor performing economy, low income working class and smallholder farmers had to and are still selling most of their productive assets, such as livestock and farming equipment. This safety net has been and will remain a short-term measure that leaves families vulnerable in the long term as they lose their capacity to produce. As a coping strategy to climate change, addressing food insecurity and economic challenges faced by rural communities who mostly survive on agriculture as a means of livelihood, Hand in Hand Zimbabwe (HiH Zim) intends to promote climate smart agriculture through rearing of indigenous small livestock breeds such as indigenous chickens that are climate resilient as a means of livelihood. Additionally, entrepreneurs are trained to adopt growing of drought tolerant small grain varieties through conservatory agriculture to attain food security.

1.1.3 Proposed Operation Area

The project is to be executed in Bulilima district which lies in Matabeleland South province. The district falls under Agro-ecological Natural regions IV and V characterised by adverse weather conditions such as extremely high temperatures, low rainfall pattern averaging 400-460 mm per annum and dry spells. The rains received in the district for more than a decade now are very unpredictable and come very late into the agricultural season in the month of December. There has been some change noted in weather patterns within the district in rainfall and temperatures leading to low agricultural production. Extreme changes in weather conditions are as a result of climate change. The livelihoods of the communities in Bulilima district depend entirely on agricultural production (little crop production & market gardens), petty trade, cross border trading, livestock rearing and remittances. Bulilima district is enriched with livestock especially small livestock which is the major physical asset for most women within the district. The households are mostly female headed and men and youths migrate to neighbouring countries such as South Africa and Botswana to seek for employment. The total population in Bulilima district is 90561 with a male population of 41508 and a female population of 48753 in 19 761 households with an average household size of 4.6 (ZIMSTAT’s 2012 report).

1.2 Specific problems to be addressed by the project

The proposed project aims to address the following specific problems:

- Weakened livelihoods option.
- Household and community gender inequalities and imbalances.
- Lack of entrepreneurial knowledge and skills.
- Limited knowledge of market segmentation, demand and limited information exchange between entrepreneurs and markets.
- Low agricultural productivity.
- Limited knowledge on environmentally friendly agricultural practices.
- Weak climate change coping strategies.

1.3 Project impact, outcomes and outputs

The goal of this project is to *“To restore livelihoods and build climate resilient communities in Bulilima district, Zimbabwe”*.

The specific outcomes are;

- 1) Establish and enhance economically and environmentally friendly enterprises in target communities.
- 2) Enhanced involvement of women and youth in economic activities and decision making at local level.

To achieve outcome 1- **Establish and enhance economically and environmentally friendly enterprises in target communities**, the expected outputs of this project are;

1. Women entrepreneurs have gained business management skills and have established environmentally friendly enterprises.
2. Women entrepreneurs have technical capacity in sustainable indigenous poultry production.
3. Women entrepreneurs are trained and adopt environmentally friendly agricultural practices.
4. Women have received extra support in form of inputs and infrastructure for their indigenous chicken enterprises.
5. Women entrepreneurs establish linkages with viable markets.

To achieve outcome 2- **Enhanced involvement of women and youth in economic activities and decision making at local level**. The expected outputs of this project are;

1. Women and youths are trained on gender issues, human rights and how to empower themselves.

Assumptions:

- ❖ The project creates some conducive environment for entrepreneurs.
- ❖ Government authorities and other external partners willing and able to collaborate with Hand in Hand Zimbabwe.
- ❖ Needed expertise is available and affordable to entrepreneurs.
- ❖ Active participation of women and youth in the project.
- ❖ External partners have the capacity to deliver and conduct the technical trainings as planned.
- ❖ Entrepreneurs are willing to learn and invest in marketing.
- ❖ High level of participation from community members.

1.4 Brief Description of the Target Groups and Final Beneficiaries.

The programme proposes to target 600 vulnerable, underprivileged and resources limited women in 2 wards of Bulilima district, Zimbabwe. These women comprise of single mothers, widows, those whose husbands have relocated to neighbouring countries to seek for a living and other women whose husbands are at home but families are resource limited and struggling to make ends meet. Essentially, these include female headed households that are facing challenges of fending and looking after their children and other dependants within the households. The target population are women involved in indigenous chicken rearing for subsistence purposes. These activities could be enhanced into a viable business as a means of livelihood. The end result is to enable the women to pay school fees for their children, cover basic needs for their families as well as health care needs. 70% of the target group will be adult women and 30% women youths.

Gender: 100% women

Age: 30%; 180 youth from 18-35years, 70%; 420 from 36-65years.

The project will be implemented for 36 months in three (3) phases namely preparatory phase (3 months), implementation (30 months) and post implementation phase (3 months).

1.5 Proposed Strategies and Activities

1.5.1 Social Mobilization

Through its social mobilization strategy, HiH Zim intends to raise awareness on the programme and its model of operation in a total of 2 wards in Bulilima district that has 22 rural wards. Thus, the organization will mobilize, facilitate and enhance formation of 60 (self-help groups) SHGs in the identified wards with each group comprising an average of ten (10) members. This will give a cumulative 600 women participating in SHG activities. Depending with the levels of trainings required established through training need assessment, beneficiaries will be trained in SHG formation and strengthening, management of SHGs, internal savings and lending as a means of raising group common fund, training for transformation and leadership. This process will culminate in each SHG crafting its own constitution that is registered with local community and legal structures.

1.5.2 Business Skills Training

Viable and stable SHGs will undergo business development trainings that will help to enhance and further develop their enterprises. The business training that HiH Zim offers aims at improving management and performance of income generating activities and graduate them into fully fledged enterprises. On average, each SHG member should create a sustainable indigenous chicken enterprise that would translate into creation of 600 enterprises for the entire project duration. It will be prerequisite for all SHG members to participate in business trainings that are conducted. The trainings include but not limited to entrepreneurship, business management, financial and credit management, costing and pricing, business planning and record keeping among other topic.

1.5.3 Support inform of inputs and infrastructure for indigenous poultry chicken enterprises

To increase productivity, HiH Zim intends to do a pass-on-scheme of indigenous chicken breeding stock resulting in a total of 600 women benefiting from the project. The initial phase will involve 300 women receiving five (5) birds each (4 hens and a cock) as a starter pack. A total of 1500 birds will be distributed. The birds will be passed on to the next recipients after 6months resulting in another 300 women benefitting under the project. The breeding stock will be sold after 18months to raise extra capital for vaccines and other inputs requirements. Additionally; each individual will receive a seed pack comprising 5 kg drought tolerant pearl millet. These seed packs ensure that the project recipients will produce their own feed through practising climate smart agriculture for sustainability purposes. Two (2) solar powered Hatchery Centres and complementing brooders will be established across the 2 wards. The community will contribute labour and bricks towards construction of the brooders to inculcate a sense of ownership towards the project.

1.5.4 Technical Skills Support

To enhance indigenous chicken enterprises, the entrepreneurs will receive specific technical trainings in indigenous chicken management tailor-made according to their needs (identified following technical skills needs assessments). The technical skills will support the entrepreneurs in strengthening their enterprise and increase productivity. The relevant technical skills trainings will be conducted in partnership with various line Ministries that include the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement (MAWCRR) and the Private Sector.

In addition, entrepreneurs will be supported through specific coaching and mentoring by Hand in Hand field teams and relevant line government ministries during field monitoring visit.

1.5.5 Market Linkages

To ensure that there is sustainability in the businesses, HIH Zim focuses on supporting the enterprises to identify and grow their market. Exposure market visits will be organized for the enterprises. These exposure visits help the entrepreneurs realize how big their dream can be if they practice business principles. Through HIH Zim Business Development unit, actual handholding is done where they take entrepreneurs to negotiate with a potential buyer of their products. HiH Zim will also facilitate entrepreneurs to participate in business expos and exhibitions as a means of linking entrepreneurs to the market. In addition, HiH Zim will facilitate Indigenous Poultry business indabas for dialoguing amongst the value chain actors. Furthermore, entrepreneurs will undergo value chain development trainings.

In addition, the programme will conduct a sector and value chain analysis for the enterprises. Trainings on marketing, access to markets and market linkages will be conducted for the 600 enterprises. Resultantly, the enterprises will develop Marketing Plans and Market Mapping to help them increase their market share and viability.

1.5.6 Incorporating Gender Concerns into Program Design

The project will work on deconstructing social and traditional practices that hinder empowerment of women. This will be achieved through gender awareness campaigns rising in community leaders and tailor made gender training targeted to men and women in respective communities. This will be supported by recruitment and training of ward based Enterprise Development Facilitators in all the wards. These will among other things disseminate gender specific information, gender training needs assessments and

trainings and monitoring community and household gender dynamics and activities to assess impact of interventions.

1.5.7 Training on Environmentally Friendly Agricultural Practices

Women under the program will be trained on climate smart agricultural practices including rearing of indigenous poultry enterprises as well as growing of drought tolerant grains through conservatory farming. One environmentally friendly awareness campaign will be held annually in each ward at community level.

1.6 Stakeholders and Potential Partners

The organization intends to partner with the following:

- (i) Ministry of Women Affairs, Community and Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MWASMED).
- (ii) Rural District Councils (Local Authorities)
- (iii) Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Settlement (MLAWCRS) under which the following departments fall: Department of Veterinary Services (DVS), Department of Crops and Livestock Production (DCLP).
- (iv) Environmental Management Agency.
- (v) Ministry Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry (METHI).
- (vi) Private sector.

1.7 Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning

The M&E strategy will provide evidence on achievements against envisaged goals, uphold accountability and compliance, gather and elaborate rights-holders' feedback.

A baseline study will be conducted with the aim of providing information and data to perform an internal end-line evaluation at the end of the three (3) years of implementation.

The monitoring of the project will be performed on monthly basis at local level to review and assess the project's achievements against the planned targets. HiH Zim's monitoring forms will be used to collect data from the target groups and the data collected will be entered into HiH Zim's Monitoring and Evaluation System (MIS). Analysis of the data will be done as part of monitoring and evaluation process and will assist in making more informed decisions.

HiH Zim will report to GlobalGiving donor constituency according to the following plan:

- Monthly reports will report on quantitative indicators and planned targets.
- Quarterly narrative reports will be shared to provide a deeper analysis of the project implementation, including qualitative information and updates on the implementation of activities and relevant case stories.
- Biannual reports.
- Quarterly financial reports will provide a constant update on the budget status.
- One annual report will be drafted each year, including in depth analysis and descriptions of the project's activities and achievements.
- GlobalGiving donors will conduct periodic visits to the project sites to assess the project performance, meet the team and discuss project updates.

In order to efficiently and effectively act on findings emerging from project reports, field visits and daily monitoring of activities will be conducted. Lessons learned will be collected and acted upon.

1.8 Sustainability

(i) Knowledge and capacity sustainability

HiH Zim prides in having a comprehensive and robust training programme that equips target individuals with requisite skills in leadership, SHG formation, strengthening and management, business development, management and planning and marketing. These are scheduled trainings that are systematically conducted in building capacities of SHGs and individuals. Past experience has shown that beneficiaries always continue with enterprise development intervention in the absence of support primarily because they will have acquired the requisite skills and knowledge that will enable them to continue implementing their various enterprises.

(ii) Partnerships in implementation of interventions

HiH Zim values partnership with various and relevant government line ministries such as the Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development; Ministry of Youth Development and Empowerment and the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Settlement. These are permanent government institutions that are mandated to work with communities. The government's involvement continues beyond the implementation period of the programme thus, it enhances sustainability.

(iii) Sustainability at EDP concept level

At local level, HiH Zim engages ward based Volunteer Enterprise Development Facilitators (EDFs) who are the pillars of the programme. The EDFs are responsible for mobilisation, training and monitoring of self-help group members. HiH Zim involves local authorities and traditional leader in implementing its projects for buy-in and sustainability.

1.9 Estimated summary budget

The 36 months' budget has been calculated to be US\$50 000.00

Description of goods	Quantity	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
Transportation-Fuel	-	US\$700.00	US\$700.00	US\$700.00	US\$2,100.00
Purchase of Motorbike and Maintenance	1.00	US\$3,000.00	US\$150.00	US\$150.00	US\$3,300.00
Business Skills Training	-	US\$500.00	US\$500.00	US\$500.00	US\$1,500.00
Technical Skills Training	-	US\$806.00	US\$807.00	US\$807.00	US\$2,420.00
Birds	1500.00	US\$7,500.00	-	-	US\$7,500.00
Vaccinations	-	US\$1,000.00	-	-	US\$1,000.00
Solar Powered Hatchery Combo	2.00	US\$6,500.00	-	-	US\$6,500.00
Construction of Brooding Houses	2.00	US\$3,000.00	-	-	US\$3,000.00
Seed Packs @\$5 each	600	US\$3,000.00	-	-	US\$3,000.00
Market Linkages	-	US\$650.00	US\$650.00	US\$650.00	US\$1,950.00
Office rental (1%)	-	US\$150.00	US\$150.00	US\$150.00	US\$450.00
Graduate Trainee Salary @\$350	-	US\$4,200.00	US\$4,200.00	US\$4,200.00	US\$12,600.00
Communication	-	US\$480.00	US\$480.00	US\$480.00	US\$1,440.00
EDF Allowance @\$20 per month	2.00	US\$480.00	US\$480.00	US\$480.00	US\$1,440.00
Area Manager Responsibility allowance@ \$50	-	US\$600.00	US\$600.00	US\$600.00	US\$1,800.00
TOTAL		US\$32,566.00	US\$8,717.00	US\$8,717.00	US\$50,000.00