



## Heifer International

Heifer International is a global development organization on a mission to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way. Working with farmers and their communities to identify and invest in business opportunities that deliver living incomes, Heifer International creates solutions to local challenges designed to build inclusive, resilient economies. Since launching in 1944, Heifer International has assisted more than 35 million people, with millions more now on a pathway to living incomes.

## Heifer Zimbabwe

In 1984, Heifer International started work in Zimbabwe, strengthening social capital within communities and working with families to increase their incomes, nutrition, and health. To date, Heifer Zimbabwe has supported 379,000 families, providing technical assistance and resources to strengthen resilience and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Farmers supported by Heifer Zimbabwe are cultivating drought-resistant crops and using improved techniques such as minimum tillage to build environmentally and economically sustainable agribusinesses. Women are joining self-help groups, where they build their savings and develop skills to generate income. As farmers increase the quality and quantity of their products, including grains, goats and beef, they are able to sell them for higher prices. As a result of skills and business training, they are connecting to new markets and meeting market demand. Heifer Zimbabwe partners with a range of organizations to develop projects that strengthen the economic security of farmers, including USAID, FAO, DFID, local ministries and other organizations.





**Livelihoods and Food Security  
Program (LFSP)  
(2015-2021)**

**Donors include:**  
**DFID**

**Total Value:**  
**\$2.1 million**

In partnership with Welthungerhilfe Zimbabwe, Heifer Zimbabwe implemented this project in Gokwe North, Gokwe South, Kwekwe and Shurugwi districts to support 36,089 families working with beef, poultry, goats, groundnuts, small grains and mung beans. Farmers are participating in local groups and gaining access to improved pluralistic agriculture extension services such as lead farmers, community animal health workers, study circles, crop and livestock demonstration plots and the public and private sector to help them make informed decisions and improve production systems and access markets. Through the setting up of demonstration plots, farmers are learning how to produce biofortified crops such as Nua45 beans and Vitamin A maize. A total of 25,200 farmers have increased their consumption of diverse and nutritious foods through Nutrition Behavior Change Communication. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has run mass media awareness campaigns promoting household level water, sanitation and hygiene activities and equipped public extension workers with personal protective equipment.

**Women Inclusion and  
Empowerment Project  
(2019-2020)**

**Donors include:**  
**Bothar**

**Total Value:**  
**\$31,222**

Implemented in Bikita district to increase the resilience of 375 women smallholder farmers and their families, the project provides support to mitigate the impacts of drought, floods, pest and disease. Groups working in the poultry value chain receive training on low-cost feed, helping to reduce their production costs and increase profit. As farmers learn how to construct animal housing and implement strict biosecurity measures, they are reducing animal mortality rates and improving profitability. The project has also supported women farmers to access microfinance to purchase incubators and poultry feed.

**Upscaling Rural Livelihoods  
in Masvingo (URLIM)  
(2018-2020)**

**Donors include:**  
**Heifer International**

**Total Value:**  
**\$2.6 million**

Implemented in Bikita, Gutu and Zaka districts, this project aimed to increase the incomes of 15,000 smallholder farming families by improving their productivity and access to markets. Farmers working in the beef and goat value chains participated in training on improved animal health management and received support from community animal health workers. Heifer Zimbabwe linked 174 farmers to private sector partners to access impact capital for business activities. Through the project, agri-hubs were set up to help farmers access markets and grow their businesses. As farmers grew resistant crops such as traditional grains, sunflower and fodder legumes, they were able to increase food security during drought and lean periods. To date, a total of 188 groups have saved over \$18,000, using the money to purchase livestock and productive assets.

**Improved Resilience,  
Nutrition and Food Security  
(2019)**

**Donors include:**  
**USAID OFDA/FAO**

**Total Value:**  
**\$127,865**

This project supported 1,067 farming families in Chivi and Gwanda districts to improve their livelihoods, food and nutrition security. With access to drought-tolerant seeds and subsidized feed through Agricultural Development Associations, farmers have increased resilience to climate shocks. Access to affordable seeds has enabled farmers to plant sorghum and protein-rich cowpeas, diversifying families' diets and improving nutrition. Heifer Zimbabwe provided farmers with training in silage making, small grain and legume agronomic practices, post-harvest handling and animal management. Agricultural Development Association committees also received training to ensure the sustainability of project activities in the communities. The associations were coached to sustainably manage proceeds from sales of subsidized seed and cattle feed through two bank accounts linked to Ecocash. As a result, two solar-powered boreholes were installed in each district, increasing communities' access to safe drinking water.