

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Zimbabwe SCCF I**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4713 |
| GEF ID | 4960 |
| Title | Scaling up adaptation in Zimbabwe, with a focus on rural livelihoods, by strengthening integrated planning systems. |
| Country(ies) | Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Climate Change Adaptation |
| Project Implementing Partner | OXFAM |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| Zimbabwe’s Second National Communications (SNC) identified impacts on agriculture as some of the most severe climate change risks facing the country. Increasing frequency of climate extremes, particularly drought and heavy rainfall events, coupled with shifting rainfall patterns are additional stressors in Natural Region V of Zimbabwe. The SNC and the country’s draft National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) have highlighted the importance of mainstreaming adaptation into the country’s development frameworks and implementing adaptive measures to safeguard vulnerable sectors and rural livelihoods. A fragile ecology, population pressure, overdependence on climate sensitive economic sectors particularly agriculture, a degraded natural resource base, limited access to livelihood assets and climate change, including variability are interacting to threaten the livelihoods of millions of rural households in NR V already struggling with poverty (76%), stagnant or declining agricultural productivity, chronic hunger (12%) and malnutrition among children (34%). Climate change, including variability has, for a long time, not been recognized as an important issue for development in the country, despite the fact that it is already starting to negatively impact development efforts. The National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA), the NCCRS, ZUNDAF (2012-2015) have identified limited awareness, technical capacity and an insufficient adaptation knowledge base from field experiences as major barriers to mainstreaming climate change adaptation (CCA) concerns in the country’s development frameworks.    The project development objective is to scale up adaptation measures and reduce the vulnerability of rural communities, particularly women to climate variability and change in the project area of Buhera, Chimanimani and Chiredzi Districts (NR V) in Zimbabwe. For climate change adaptation to take place at scale and sustained over time, the theory of change that underpins this initiative includes learning systems for generating and sharing knowledge on how to strengthen and diversify rural livelihoods in a changing and variable climate, increasing knowledge and understanding of climate variability and change risks and policy mainstreaming.    The project objective will be achieved by pursuing the following Outcomes:  (i) Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas.  (ii) Increased knowledge and understanding of climate variability and change-induced risks at country level and in targeted vulnerable areas.    This project will be executed over a four year period (2014 – 2018) by Oxfam in Zimbabwe as an Implementing Partner. This project is aligned with the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZimAsset) objectives on food and nutrition security and is expected to contribute towards attainment of MDG 1 (eradicating extreme hunger and poverty) and MDG 7 (achieving environmental sustainability). |

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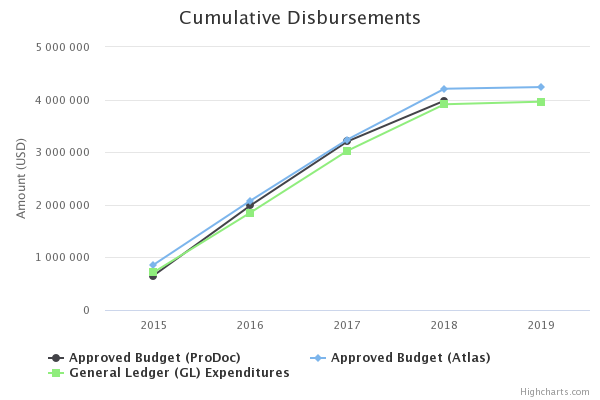
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Low |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To scale up adaptation measures and reduce the vulnerability of rural communities, particularly women to climate variability and change in the project area of Buhera, Chimanimani and Chiredzi Districts (NR V) in Zimbabwe .** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Vulnerability Reduction Perception Index | High Vulnerability (Score of 8 or more on an index from 1 to 10) | *(not set or not applicable)* | Low vulnerability (Score of 4 or less, on an index from 1 to 10) | Low vulnerability perception index (score 4 or less) for 27.4% of households.    The project had reached 8 103hh (3292 M and 4811 F) direct beneficiaries by June 2018. A project impact survey conducted in June 2018 among 470 beneficiaries across the three project sites revealed a positive change in vulnerability perception index. The survey showed that there was low vulnerability perception index (score 4 or less) for 27.4% of households which was an improvement from 26% at midterm and 3.2% at baseline. There were more households (44.6%) with moderate vulnerability (score less than 8 and greater than 4) compared to 40% at mid-term.  There was a downward trend in households with high vulnerability (score 8 or more) from 88% at baseline to 21- 27% at end of project household impact survey. The trend for each district from baseline to end of project evaluation was; Buhera District (87% to , 22 - 28% respectively), Chimanimani District (90% to 7 - 18%) and Chiredzi District (86% to 24 - 42%). Major climatic shocks experienced during the reporting period included a mid-season dry spell and the Fall Army Worm which devastated crops. (The Fall Armyworm (Spodoptera frugiperda) is an insect that feeds on more than 80 plant species, including maize, rice, sorghum and sugarcane but also vegetable crops and cotton. It has a voracious appetite, reproduces and spreads quickly, given the right environmental conditions).    When comparing the June 2018 household survey with the June 2017 one, the perception of low levels of vulnerability has been maintained over the last year despite the mid season dry spell that was an issue in the 2017 to 2018 agricultural season. This is a positive indication of stable reduced vulnerability and improved adaptive capacity due to project interventions, although there was a slight increase (40 to 44.6%) in households that perceived themselves as moderately vulnerable.    Tangible investments made by the project to reduce vulnerability and build resilience included enhancing water security through: 21 boreholes, 12 rainwater harvesting systems at 13 schools, 2 weirs, and restoration and protection of 3 wetlands. Under natural ecosystems focus area, the project supported the protection of 1500.4 hectares of land through dead level contours, vegetation strips, gully plugs, storm drains, silt traps, wetland protection/restoration and reforestation. For climate smart farming practices, 25 community gardens, 9 solar powered water systems, 9 climate smart villages (103 energy saving stoves, tin silos, rangeland restoration, labour saving farming technologies), 6 demonstration plots (farmer field schools), 22 baby demo plots were established across the three districts. Village saving and lending groups were incorporated in all project activities to improve access to finance and increase investment capital. | By the end of the project, 8 103hh (3292 M and 4811 F) direct beneficiaries had been reached. Beneficiary focused project activities ended in June 2018, after which only activities such as end of project impact survey, close out meetings and the terminal evaluation were conducted.  The project impact survey conducted in June 2018 among 470 beneficiaries across the three project sites revealed a positive change in vulnerability perception index. The survey showed that there was low vulnerability perception index (score 4 or less) for 27.4% of households which was an improvement from 26% at midterm and 3.2% at baseline. There were more households (44.6%) with moderate vulnerability (score less than 8 and greater than 4) compared to 40% at mid-term.  There was a downward trend in households with high vulnerability (score 8 or more) from 88% at baseline to 21- 27% at end of project household impact survey. The trend for each district from baseline to end of project evaluation was; Buhera District (from 87% at high vulnerability levels to 22 - 28%), Chimanimani District (from 90% at high vulnerability at project start to 7 - 18% at end of project) and Chiredzi District (from 86% to 24 - 42%).  This downward trend is despite major climatic shocks experienced during the project period including El Nino induced drought (2015/16), mid-season dry spells (2017/18), the Fall Army Worm which devastated crops (given the right environmental and climatic conditions) and an increasingly difficult macro-economic situation.  When comparing the June 2018 household survey with the June 2017 one, the perception of low levels of vulnerability has been maintained over the last year of the project despite the mid season dry spell that was an issue in the 2017 to 2018 agricultural season. This is a positive indication of stable reduced vulnerability and improved adaptive capacity due to project interventions, although there was a slight increase (40 to 44.6%) in households that perceived themselves as moderately vulnerable.  Cumulative tangible investments made by the project to reduce vulnerability and build resilience over the years included enhancing water security through: 21 boreholes, 12 rainwater harvesting systems at 13 schools, 2 weirs, and restoration and protection of 3 wetlands. Under natural ecosystems focus area, the project supported the protection of 1500.4 hectares of land through dead level contours, vegetation strips, gully plugs, storm drains, silt traps, wetland protection/restoration and reforestation. For climate smart farming practices, 25 community gardens, 9 solar powered water systems, 9 climate smart villages (103 energy saving stoves, tin silos, rangeland restoration, labour saving farming technologies), 6 demonstration plots (farmer field schools), 22 baby demo plots were established across the three districts. Village saving and lending groups were incorporated in all project activities to improve access to finance and increase investment capital. |
| - | - | *(not set or not applicable)* | - | *(not set or not applicable)* |  |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Achieved** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 1.1 Households and communities have more secure livelihood asset base (5 point rating) disaggregated by gender | 1.1 Households in project area have poor access (rating 2) to livelihood assets. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1.1 Percentage of households with a rating of 4 on scale: Secure access to livelihood assets, increased by at least 20%. | Progress is 75% on average for the three districts.    To increase the number of households with secure access to livelihood assets (rating 4), the project has developed an exit strategy that build in strategies to address shortcomings identified by stakeholders. The exit strategy includes linking the farmers to more technical support from government and private sector partners.    The majority of the households (57.5%) have moved to moderate access (rating 3). In Buhera District households with secure access (rating 4) increased to 25% from 3.4% at baseline, Chimanimani District (8.0% from 4% at baseline), and Chiredzi District (13% from 2.1% at baseline). Households that indicated a change in access to livelihood assets benefited from interventions ranging from access to water, natural ecosystem management, climate adapted agriculture practices/technologies, knowledge and skills, DRR training, weather and climate information services, finance and market linkages.    The decline observed in secure access to livelihood assets in Chimanimani District from 12% in 2017 to 8% in 2018 is partly attributed to the poor performance of Village Savings and Lending Groups as well as the limited interest of financial institutions to support the farmers in the district because of their poor credit history. | By the end of the project overall, the households with secure livelihood asset bases (with a rating of 4) had increased due to project interventions from 3.2% to 15.2% compared to end of project target of 20%. Cumulative progress for the full project period is therefore 75% on average for the three districts.  Throughout the project, the focus was on increasing the number of households with secure access to livelihood assets (rating 4). By the end of the project, the majority of the households (57.5%) had moved to moderate access to livelihood assets (rating 3). In Buhera District households with secure access (rating 4) increased to 25% from 3.4% at baseline, in Chimanimani District the increase was to 8.0% from 4% at baseline, and in Chiredzi District the increase reached 13% from 2.1% at baseline. The households that indicated a change in access to livelihood assets had by then benefited from interventions ranging from access to water, natural ecosystem management, climate adapted agriculture practices/technologies, knowledge and skills, DRR training, weather and climate information services, finance and market linkages. It should be noted that Chimanimani District in 2017 had increased the portion of households with secure access to livelihoods assets to 12% in 2017, but that this declined to 8% in 2018. This decline is partly attributed to the poor performance of Village Savings and Lending Groups as well as the limited interest of financial institutions to support the farmers in the district because of their poor credit history.  While the project did not completely reach its target on ensuring a secure livelihood asset base for the expected 20% of farmers, it should be noted that the project has operated in a challenging climatic and economic environment. With the El Nino induced drought in the agricultural season of 2015/16, some setbacks were experienced on crop and livestock asset base and production and the mid season dry spell and the deteriorating economic environment has similarly stressed farmers. In this context, the achievement of 15,2% of farmers having secure access to livelihood assets (rating 4) and the majority of households (57.5%) having moderate access to livelihood assets (rating 3) is deemed satisfactory.  To sustain results, the project further developed an exit strategy that built in strategies to address shortcomings identified by stakeholders. The exit meetings emphasized the need for continued technical support from district level authorities and national government and also supported continued linkages between farmers and private sector partners. Also OXFAM and UNDP are continuing to seek ways to support the communities, so that results can be sustained. OXFAM is embarking on a successor project which targets some of the areas as well as scales up the intervention to other districts with SIDA support and UNDP and GoZ is pursuing support from the GCF to upscale and further build on the work of SCCA. |
| 1.2 Increase in agricultural income | 1.2 tbd | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1.2 50% of targeted smallholder farmers (by gender) have increased their agricultural income by at least 25%. | Progress is at 70%.    32% of targeted smallholder farmers have increased their agricultural income by 15 to 198% depending on district. To reach the target, the project has strengthened private sector linkages for viable value chains in the last year of implementation.    Measured by the % of farmers with increased income, the 32% equates to a 64% progress towards target and the margins of increase in income for these farmers is almost 8 fold exceeding target of 25% increase.    In Buhera District farmers increased their income to an average of $1 321/year for 38.6% of farmers from $444/year at baseline representing a 198 percent increase in income. In Chimaninani District average household income increased to $994/year for 30.4%% of farmers from $864/year at baseline representing a 15 percent increase in income. In Chiredzi District average household income increased to $1 072/year for 27% of farmers from $456/year at baseline which is a 135 percent increase in income.  Districts with the highest increase in income had the beef value chain and vibrant Village Savings and Lending groups.    Value chains including honey, cattle/beef, goats, Michigan Pea bean, sugar beans and vegetables helped to increase farmers’ incomes through value addition and market linkages. Raw honey at baseline was being sold at $1.80/kg but after improved farmer organization, market linkages and value addition, raw honey price increased to $2.20/kg whereas processed honey fetched $4/kg.    Examples of increased incomes for the Michigan Pea value chain in Buhera and Chimanimani: Bonde irrigation scheme farmers, produced about 0,472 T Michigan pea beans from 0,2 Ha plots, realising a gross income of $455 and a net income of $ 348. With agronomic support and input packages, 52 % of farmers increased their yields significantly and managed to reach production targets. (Average yield increases from 1 to 1,6 t/ha | Project activities which targeted beneficiaries directly ended in June 2018, after which an end of project impact survey, exit meetings and the TE were conducted. By June 2018, 32% of targeted farmers had increased their income from agriculture by between 15 and 189% through initiatives which were introduced by the project to strengthen linkages between producers and the private sector (market) which established value chains.  The value chains that were developed and strengthened over the full project duration included honey, cattle/beef, goats, Michigan Pea bean, sugar beans and vegetables and helped to increase farmers’ incomes through value addition and linkages to ready markets, ensuring guaranteed sales.  Exemplifying the income increases, raw honey at the baseline was being sold at $1.80/kg. After improved farmer organization, market linkages and value addition, the raw honey price increased to $2.20/kg, whereas processed honey fetched $4/kg.  Another key example, is that of the Michigan Pea value chain in Buhera and Chimanimani, which employed a contract farming approach. The Bonde irrigation scheme farmers produced about 0,472 T Michigan pea beans each from 0,2 Ha plots, realising a gross income of $455 and a net income of $ 348 per farmer. With agronomic support and input packages, 52 % of farmers increased their yields significantly and managed to reach production targets. (Average yield increases from 1 to 1,6 t/ha).  Under the cattle value chain, 348 beasts were pen-fattened and sold realizing about $183 339.64 in Buhera and Chiredzi districts.  The Terminal Evaluation concluded that the highest increases in income were recorded for the livestock and horticulture value chains. Also, districts with the highest increase in income had the beef value chain as well as vibrant Village Savings and Lending groups.  In Buhera District farmers increased their income to an average of $1 321/year for 38.6% of farmers from $444/year at baseline. This represents a 198 percent increase in income. In Chimaninani District the average household income increased to $994/year for 30.4% of farmers from $864/year at baseline. This represents a 15 percent increase in income. In Chiredzi District average household income increased to $1 072/year for 27% of farmers from $456/year at baseline, which is a 135 percent increase in income.  Measured by the % of farmers with increased income, the achievement of 32% of farmers having increased incomes by at least 25% did not reach the 50% of farmers target. However, the margins of increase in income for majority of these farmers are well exceeding the target of 25% income increase.  Chimanimani district experienced challenges in significantly increasing incomes with only 15% income increase on average. This is partly due to the choice and options for developing value chains in Chimamanimani, the poor performance of Village Savings and Lending Groups as well as the limited interest of financial institutions to support the farmers in the district because of their poor credit history.  However, worth noting is that while average household income were increasing at the SCCA project sites, the national, multi-agency/institution ZIMVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment of 2018 (Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee) indicated that average rural household incomes have been declining over the period 2013-2017 in the same districts. For instance, according to the ZIMVAC survey, average incomes for rural livelihoods in Manicaland (incl. the districts of Buhera and Chimanimani) dropped from 1044USD in 2013 to 672 USD in 2017. The TE concluded that the increase in incomes at project sites in comparison to the ZIMVAC documentation of declines in income on average for the provinces in which the project sites are situated is a clear indication of the impact the SCCA project has had on rural incomes at project sites. In as much as the target was not completely reached the project approach seems to have been effective in a very challenges socio economic environment and points to the potential of the project approach for diversifying rural livelihoods and increasing incomes.  To reach the target and sustain incomes, the project strengthened private sector linkages for viable value chains in the last year of implementation and also exit meetings with farmer groups and private sector partners has emphasized the importance of continued relations. |
| 1.3 Number of financial transactions per Self Help Group increase | 1.3 tbd | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1.3 At least 50% of female headed households in each Self Help Group complete at least two financial transactions | Achieved.    100% of women in self-help groups (village savings and groups) completed at least 3 transactions (saving, lending and social fund saving).  The project supported the establishment of 239 Village Savings and Lending (VSL) Groups (Buhera, 75; Chimanimani, 27; and Chiredzi, 137) for the benefit of 3030 people (504M, 2526F) across the three districts. Most groups managed to increase their share values by between 50 and 60% per year through lending out money. The survey revealed that 36.2% of households used their Village Savings and Lending income to cover food, 8% invested in productive assets, 40.1% paid fees for their children and the remainder (15.7%) spend it on health, off-farm income generating activities as well as repair and maintenance of water sources. | Fully achieved. By the end of the project, 100% of women in self-help groups (village savings and groups) completed at least 3 transactions (saving, lending and social fund saving).  Over its lifetime, the project supported the establishment of 239 Village Savings and Lending (VSL) Groups (Buhera, 75; Chimanimani, 27; and Chiredzi, 137) for the benefit of 3030 people (504M, 2526F) across the three districts. Most groups managed to increase their share values by between 50 and 60% per year through lending out money. The survey revealed that 36.2% of households used their Village Savings and Lending income to cover food, 8% invested in productive assets, 40.1% paid fees for their children and the remainder (15.7%) spend it on health, off-farm income generating activities as well as repair and maintenance of water sources.  The TE concluded that the establishment of Village Saving and Lending Groups was one of the most successful project interventions from the perspective of livelihood enhancement and women empowerment. These structures enhanced women's access to financial resources, made it possible for them to make investments and thereby improved their capacities to adapt to climate variability and change. The TE concluded that the VSL initiatives are the most likely to be sustainable into the future for as long as there is cash available on the market. |
| 1.2                Volume of targeted locally produced commodities that are processed/value added and marketed by smallholder farmers increase | 1.4 tbd | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1.4 At least 25% of targeted locally produced commodities in the three districts have value added and marketed by smallholder farmers | Achieved.    At least 63% of targeted locally produced commodities in the three districts were value added and/or marketed by smallholder farmers. This is more than the end of project target of 25%.    Cumulative amounts of 12.445MT raw honey and 5.360MT of processed honey have been sold in Buhera District realizing gross income of more than $46 000 among 98 farmers.  Cumulatively leafy vegetables produced across the established gardens were in excess of 11.869MT and 4.533MT were preserved through solar drying.  82.656 MT of Michigan Pea Beans from contract farming were produced and marketed in Buhera and Chimanimani districts.  Sugar Beans: 53 MT were marketed in Chiredzi districts.  Under the cattle value chain, 348 beasts were pen-fattened and sold realizing about $183 339.64 in Buhera and Chiredzi districts.  The goats value chain was improved through purchase of 28 Boer Matebele crosses and construction of 34 improved goat houses in Buhera and Chimanimani districts. 167 goats were marketed in Chiredzi to Koala earning farmers about $6,000. | As project activities wrapped up in June 2018, the project had succeeded in facilitating the establishment of market linkages between communities in project site areas who were producing products and ready markets/buyers - and this had already resulted in dramatic improvements in production and incomes flowing to these communities. By June 2018, at least 63% of the targeted locally produced commodities in the three districts were value added and/or marketed by smallholder farmers. This is more than the end of project target of 25%.  Cumulative amounts over the project duration amounted to 12.445MT raw honey and 5.360MT of processed honey, which was sold in Buhera District realizing gross income of more than $46 000 among 98 farmers.  Cumulatively leafy vegetables produced across the established gardens were in excess of 11.869MT and 4.533MT were preserved through solar drying.  82.656 MT of Michigan Pea Beans from contract farming were produced and marketed in Buhera and Chimanimani districts.  53 MT of sugar beans were marketed in Chiredzi districts.  Under the cattle value chain, 348 beasts were pen-fattened and sold realizing about $183 339.64 in Buhera and Chiredzi districts.  The goats value chain was improved through purchase of 28 Boer Matebele crosses and construction of 34 improved goat houses in Buhera and Chimanimani districts. 167 goats were marketed in Chiredzi to Koala earning farmers about $6,000.  Overall, by the end of the project the value chains which promoted the production and marketing of horticultural crops (leafy vegetables, michigan pea beans and sugar beans) and livestock were doing well and had identified ready markets for the produce. Based on the baseline, this was an important development as it broadened the scope of products the farmers produce and sell beyond the usual staples for own consumption. In December 2018, the TE team however observed gaps in product quality on the honey value chain and recommended that this producer group be linked to further training and market identification. While this is beyond the scope of the just ended project, the UNDP and OXFAM are pursuing other avenues to continue to support quality development of the honey value chain. OXFAM is currently working with SIDA on scaling up the project approach to other districts and may also be able to support consolidation of some of the work already done. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Achieved** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Increased knowledge and understanding of climate variability and change-induced risks at country level and in targeted vulnerable areas** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| 2.1 Relevant risk information disseminated to stakeholders | 2.1 Target districts do not have access to regular localised climate forecasts and protocols for effective use in risk management | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2.1 70% of smallholder farmers in the project area have access to localised climate forecasts | Progress is at 65%.    The end of term household survey revealed that 45.3% of farmers’ accessed locally relevant observed rainfall information in near real-time, thanks to the network of rainguages established by the project across all the project sites. This data greatly helped farmers to make locally relevant crop management decisions. The rainguages are manned by farmers and extension workers.    Sources of information varied. On average about 58.4% of farmers surveyed received weather and seasonal climate outlooks through the radio (Buhera 76%, Chimanimani 73.8% and Chiredzi 25.5%). 76.8% of households received weather information from agricultural extension staff.    In Chiredzi District social media was used to disseminate medium range and seasonal rainfall outlook information since most parts of the district have limited to no radio coverage. The project supported the Meteorological Services Department to produce localised 7-day rainfall outlooks for the project areas and the rest of the country. However, a lot more capacity building focusing on human resources is required for the Meteorological Services Department to develop and generate tailored weather and climate products for smallholder farmers.        Cumulatively the following activities have been conducted under the climate services component:  -2 automatic weather stations have been installed in Buhera and Chimanimani districts. 30 rain gauges have been installed at farmer field schools and extension workers’ offices, and 3 portable soil moisture sensors have been supplied on a pilot scale to support soil moisture management strategies.  - Dissemination System: A front-page based climate information dissemination system has been designed, developed and installed at MSD, Agritex National and District offices for the three project sites. However, staff movements within Agritex made it difficult to operationalise the ICT based climate information dissemination system. | Overall outcome 2 sought to generate knowledge and understanding of climate change and variability and disseminate relevant risk information for use in agricultural decision making at all levels.  The project target for output 2.1 was to have at least 70% of smallholder farmers in the project area having access to localised climate forecasts.  The end of project survey documented that an average of 80.6% of farmers received weather and seasonal forecast information from various sources, with an average of 70% in the project area receiving this information through the radio and through extension services. Chiredzi District had to resort to using social media to disseminate rainfall outlook reports as the area has challenges with radio coverage. MSD also produced 7 day rainfall forecasts.  In terms of localised climate forecases, the assessment at the end of the project activities was that up to 45% of farmers in the project area had access to locally relevant rainfall data on a near real time basis. The rainfall data was collected through the network of rain gauges, which were distributed across the project area and managed by fellow farmers who were trained to record and disseminate such data to their peers. Smallholder farmers could therefore make management decisions about their farming operations.  While most farmers received seasonal forecasts, given that only 45% of farmers had access to locally relevant data, it is fair to estimate progress against the target at 64%.  Sources of information varied. On average about 58.4% of farmers surveyed in the end of project impact survey received weather and seasonal climate outlooks through the radio (Buhera 76%, Chimanimani 73.8% and Chiredzi 25.5%). 76.8% of households received weather information from agricultural extension staff. In Chiredzi District social media was used to disseminate medium range and seasonal rainfall outlook information since most parts of the district have limited to no radio coverage.  The project supported the Meteorological Services Department to produce localised 7-day rainfall outlooks for the project areas and the rest of the country. However, despite significant efforts from the project team, a lot more capacity building focusing on human resources is required for the Meteorological Services Department to develop and generate tailored weather and climate products for smallholder farmers – and also equally important, staff movements within Agritex with limited or no handover made it difficult to operationalise the ICT based climate information dissemination system effectively.  Cumulatively the following activities have been conducted under the climate services component:  -2 automatic weather stations have been installed in Buhera and Chimanimani districts. 30 rain gauges have been installed at farmer field schools and extension workers’ offices, and 3 portable soil moisture sensors have been supplied on a pilot scale to support soil moisture management strategies.  - Dissemination System: A front-page based climate information dissemination system has been designed, developed and installed at MSD, Agritex National and District offices for the three project sites.  Noting the challenges in making the climate information system work optimally, OXFAM and UNDP are committed to take up this issue in the post project period and ensure that appropriate information is included in weather and climate advisory services and distributed. Oxfam is already continuing with a follow on project, which also focuses on climate change adaptation and the climate information system could possibly be supported through this new project. |
| 2.2 Climate information routinely and effectively used in making climate sensitive decisions | 2.2 Climate information not routinely used by stakeholders in the targeted districts | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2.2 Climate information being routinely and effectively used by at least 50% of smallholder farmers (by gender) to make climate sensitive decisions. | Progress is at about 70%.    An average of 80.6% of farmers who received weather and seasonal forecast information from various sources. 33.7% used seasonal climate forecasts to make climate sensitive decisions for crop and livestock production risk management as they found it relevant to their needs. Main sources of information cited were the radio 58.4% and the Agritex officers 76.8%. 45.3% of farmers’ accessed locally relevant observed rainfall information in near real-time from local rain gauges which they are using to make climate sensitive decision.    The decisions that farmers made included reducing the sizes of land under crop production, winter ploughing to conserve soil moisture and use of conservation farming practices to maximize infield rainwater harvesting and conservation. Farmers also fine-tuned their marketing strategies. From the project assessment, a lot more work is still needed to promote regular and correct use of climate information in farming decision support. The missing link is the extension services who have limited confidence in guiding farmers on the use of climate information in decision making. | The target for output 2.2. focused on climate information being routinely and effectively used by at least 50% of smallholder farmers to make climate sensitive decisions. The end of project survey concluded that climate information is being routinely and effectively used by at least 50% of smallholder farmers (by gender) to make climate sensitive decisions.  The end of project survey documented that an average of 80.6% of farmers received weather and seasonal forecast information from various sources. 33.7% reported that they used seasonal climate forecasts to make climate sensitive decisions for crop and livestock production risk management as they found it relevant to their needs. Main sources of information cited were the radio 58.4% and the Agritex officers 76.8%. 45.3% of farmers’ accessed locally relevant observed rainfall information in near real-time from local rain gauges which they are using to make climate sensitive decision.  The decisions that farmers made included reducing the sizes of land under crop production, winter ploughing to conserve soil moisture and use of conservation farming practices to maximize infield rainwater harvesting and conservation. Farmers also fine-tuned their marketing strategies. From the end of project survey and assessments, a lot more work is still needed to promote regular and correct use of climate information in farming decision support. The missing link is the extension services who have limited confidence in guiding farmers on the use of climate information in decision making.  A climate information dissemination system was designed and installed at MSD, AGRITEX and National and District offices in the three pilot project areas. However, by the end of the project, the ICT based climate information system was non-operational due to staff rotations and limited handover and skills development within AGRITEX. While capacity building support was originally provided by University of Zimbabwe DGES as a responsible party, this was at the end of the project being provided on a case by case basis. As the project wraps up, the non- functionality of the system is an issue of concern as there was no synergy between the weather and climate information that MSD produce and package for dissemination and the weather advisory services provided to the farmer by agricultural extension officers, whose focus seems to be mainly related to rainfall patterns.  The TE noted that farmers have therefore not benefitted from the longer term ICT based weather and climate information system that MSD produces which would have enabled them to plan their activities over the long term.  Noting the challenges in making the climate information system work optimally, OXFAM and UNDP are committed to take up this issue in the post project period and ensure that appropriate information is included in weather and climate advisory services and distributed. Oxfam is already continuing with a follow on project, which also focuses on climate change adaptation and the climate information system could possibly be supported through this new project. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Achieved** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 99.51% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 99.51% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 3,960,544 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 100,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 3,980,000 |
| Co-financing | 58,480,000 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Jun 7, 2012 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Sep 4, 2014 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Nov 26, 2014 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Feb 11, 2015 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 1, 2017 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Aug 30, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Dec 31, 2018 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Nov 30, 2018 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | Dec 31, 2018 |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |
| 2019-06-04 |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The TE was supposed to be concluded by December, but bridged into March 2019. This was due to delays on the procurement of consultants from UNDP side. The terminal board meeting was delayed due to the delays on finalising the TE and due to limited availability of key stakeholders. |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The TE was supposed to be concluded by December, but due to procurement delays on the UNDP side, consultants came on board late in the year. The long summer holidays in Zimbabwe from December to January made it difficult to access key stakeholders and the report was only finalised in March 2019. The terminal board meeting was delayed due to the delays on finalising the TE and due to limited availability of key stakeholders, namely the key government counterparts. |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The main delay encountered was on the completion of the Terminal Evaluation. Instead of being completed in December 2018, it was finalized in March 2019 due to procurement delays and difficulties in getting the inputs of key stakeholders during the normal holiday season of December/January in Zimbabwe. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | A survey conducted by the project in 2018 showed that 27.4% of households that directly benefited from the project had a Low vulnerability perception index (score 4 or less) as a result of the project interventions including livelihood diversification, climate proofing livelihood assets (particularly irrigation infrastructure and livestock), climate adapted farming practices, improving access to financial services including micro-insurance and use of climate information. 15.2% of targeted households increased secure access (rating 4) to livelihood assets particularly water and land. This was achieved through project supported investments in diversified water sources or protection of water sources and soil and water conservation practices.    32% of targeted smallholder farmers have increased their agricultural income by a range of 15 to 198% across the three targeted districts. In Buhera District average household income increased to US$1,321 per year for 38.6% of the targeted beneficiaries, Chimanimani District ($994) and Chiredzi District ($1,072). Buhera District benefited from more value chains and market linkages compared to the other districts where the livelihood options were limited. Farmers generally used the extra income to buy more livestock (cattle and goats), make home improvements and support the education of their children. In cases where there are community productive assets such as irrigation facilities and boreholes, farmers started contributing towards the repair and maintenance of such facilities. At least 63% of targeted locally produced commodities in the three districts were value added and/or marketed by smallholder farmers as a result of the project's interventions. The beef value chain performed the best in Buhera and Chiredzi districts. Where irrigation was available and reliable, sugar beans and Michigan beans showed good potential. The honey value chain performed well in Buhera District. 45.3% of farmers’ accessed locally relevant observed rainfall information in near real-time.    The project Theory of Change was based on the hypothesis that, for climate change adaptation to be built at scale and for vulnerable smallholder farmers to successfully adapt over time to impacts of climate change, including variability, there is need for: (i) pilot testing among smallholder farmers and policy makers about adaptation response options and support services needed, (ii) knowledge and understanding of climate risk, and (iii) capacity among relevant institutions to mainstream climate change adaptation. The hypothesis is that when farmers have improved knowledge and understanding of climate risks that they are exposed to, and have gained knowledge of possible solutions to absorb, adjust or transform their livelihood systems to deal with climate stress, and they have institutions that can support them then they will be able to adopt practices and technologies that reduce vulnerability and build resilience to climate change impacts in the long run.    The project supported farmers to implement a range of climate adapted farming practices focusing on agronomy, agroforestry, livestock, post-harvest systems, weather information, energy systems, village level financial services, rural micro-enterprises and market linkages. Farmer Field Schools, Field Days, learning visits, public extension services, a range of knowledge and communication materials were used to promote scaling out and up. Climate adapted farming practices demonstrated included, a range of soil and water conservation techniques, drought tolerant crop varieties, increasing crop type/variety diversification, livestock fodder crop production, zero livestock grazing, increasing market offtake for livestock to reduce pressure on pastures, micro and small scale irrigation, livestock breed improvement (goats), improved post-harvest processing and storage.    Although the project maintained it’s theory of change during implementation, a more systematic evaluation is required to establish the effectiveness of the proposed pathways to change. However, from the project’s own assessments, Farmer Field Schools, Field Days, trainings and look and learn visits were very effective at scaling out good practices. This was clearly the case for adoption of drought tolerant crops/varieties, soil and water conservation, pen-finishing of livestock, village savings and lending groups, micro-insurance, fodder crop production, energy saving stoves and use of rainguages to support decision making.    A key lesson emerging on the Theory of Change is that, the relevance, cost and labour involved in a technology or practice tended to determine to rate and scale of adoption. For example in Buhera District, wood saving stoves were widely adopted in the project’s Climate Smart Villages and beyond because of their relevance to the firewood access challenges in the district, environmental benefits attached to the solution, the low cost of the technology and labour saved in searching for firewood. On the other hand, whereas irrigation is viewed as a priority to enhance resilience in all the three districts, the cost of the solution limits scaling out and up.    Impacts in the longterm could be reversed if results are not sustained. The policy and macro-economic environment are critical in sustaining the economic, social and environmental capitals built by the project as essential ingredients for resilience capacities. It is recommended that a post project assessment be conducted to ascertain project impacts that are likely to endure. There is insufficient data to provide an assessment of alternative models that could have been used to achieve similar or better impacts in the project area. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The DO progress rating is satisfactory due to the following:  - Results are deemed satisfactory for a project operating in a challenging climatic and socio-economic context. A discussion of outcomes and output progress follows below. Also, the implementing partner has made effective use of project funds to achieve desired results.  - Consistently good collaboration between the implementing partner, communities, private sector and government authorities, which has supported achievment of results as well as long term sustainability of achievements.  - Consistently good collaboration with the implementing partners  Overall the objective of the project was to scale up adaptation measures and reduce the vulnerability of rural communities, particularly women to climate variability and change in the project area of Buhera, Chimanimani and Chiredzi Districts (NR V) in Zimbabwe.  By the end of the project, it had reached 8 103hh (3292 M and 4811 F) direct beneficiaries against a target of 10,000 (81% progress). The end of project survey conducted in June 2018 showed that 27.4% of households that directly benefited from the project and had a low vulnerability perception index score (score 4 or less) which was a clear improvement from 26% at midterm and 3.2% at baseline. This finding was also confirmed by the Terminal Evaluation, which rated the project satisfactory. This result could clearly be attributed to the project interventions including livelihood diversification, climate proofing livelihood assets (particularly irrigation infrastructure and livestock), climate adapted farming practices, improving access to financial services including micro-insurance and use of climate information.  As per outcome 1, which focused on diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable smallholder farmers in targeted areas, the Terminal Evaluation concluded that the project had been Highly Successful (S) towards achieving Outcome 1.  Overall outputs 1.1-1.4 were achieved or largely achieved in very difficult socio economic conditions. 15.2% of targeted households increased secure access (rating 4) to livelihood assets particularly water and land. This was achieved through project supported investments in diversified water sources or protection of water sources and soil and water conservation practices. 32% of targeted smallholder farmers increased their agricultural income by a range of 15 to 198% across the three targeted districts. In Buhera District, average household income increased to US$1,321 per year for 38.6% of the targeted beneficiaries, Chimanimani District ($994) and Chiredzi District ($1,072). Buhera District benefited from more value chains and market linkages compared to the other districts where the livelihood options were limited. Farmers generally used the extra income to buy more livestock (cattle and goats), make home improvements and support the education of their children. In cases where there are community productive assets such as irrigation facilities and boreholes, farmers started contributing towards the repair and maintenance of such facilities. At least 63% of targeted locally produced commodities in the three districts were value added and/or marketed by smallholder farmers as a result of the project's interventions. The beef value chain performed the best in Buhera and Chiredzi districts. Where irrigation was available and reliable, sugar beans and Michigan beans showed good potential. The honey value chain performed well in Buhera District.  Under outcome 2, however, the project experienced challenges, throughout the project period. These were not resolved in the last year of project implementation, despite efforts to support capacity building and improved collaboration between MSD and AGRITEX.  While the end of project survey documented that an average of 80.6% of farmers received weather and seasonal forecast information from various sources, the intended ICT based climate information system was non-operational, partly due to capacity challenges in MSD and partly due to staff rotations and limited handover and skills development within AGRITEX. The limited synergy between the weather and climate information that MSD produce and package for dissemination and the weather advisory services provided to the farmer by agricultural extension officers is a concern as the project wraps up.  Noting the challenges in making the climate information system work optimally, OXFAM and UNDP are committed to take up this issue in the post project period and ensure that appropriate information is included in weather and climate advisory services and distributed. Oxfam is already continuing with a follow on project, which also focuses on climate change adaptation and the climate information system could possibly be supported through this new project.  Cumulative delivery against expected delivery for the full project period stands at 100%. The project financing was based on the SCCF grant from GEF through UNDP and co-financing commitments from UNDP, Government, NGOs and communities. By the end of the project, the actual amount received in co-financing got to $1,871,514.89 in cash, constituting only 14,74% of the co-financing confirmed at CEO endorsement. UNDP contributed the promised USD 400,000. The partnership and funding from World Vision never materialised, while OXFAM, Plan and SAFIRE contributed only partial amounts of co-financing. Government of Zimbabwe contributed with significant in kind resources, estimated at 270% over the expected contribution.  The project was implemented in a partnership between OXFAM as implementing partner and Plan International and SAFIRE as local responsible partners on the ground. The project excelled in building strong partnerships at district level with local CBO’s/CSO’s, private sector, financial institutions, district and national government actors. This was a main factor in ensuring project achievements and an important part of the exit strategy for sustained results. The IP rating is therefore deemed satisfactory.  Gender considerations played a key role in the design of the project and in its implementation, but the assumptions and strategy was adjusted along the way. Although there is no record of a Gender Analysis and Action Plan having been developed at the design stage, the project set out to target 70% women beneficiaries. The amount of women headed households had been overestimated and given conflict potential if only women household heads were targeted the project adopted an approach of working with both male and female headed households, while ensuring that gender equality and women empowerment measures were taken. At the end of the project the TE documented that women had across the three districts had significant women empowerment impacts, incl. access to finance, access to assets, inclusion in otherwise male dominated value chains and decision making processes/fora.  As explained in the assessment by the project manager, the project Theory of Change was based on the hypothesis that, for climate change adaptation to be built at scale and for vulnerable smallholder farmers to successfully adapt over time to impacts of climate change, including variability, there is need for: (i) pilot testing among smallholder farmers and policy makers about adaptation response options and support services needed, (ii) knowledge and understanding of climate risk, and (iii) capacity among relevant institutions to mainstream climate change adaptation. The hypothesis was that when farmers have improved knowledge and understanding of climate risks that they are exposed to, and have gained knowledge of possible solutions to absorb, adjust or transform their livelihood systems to deal with climate stress, and they have institutions that can support them then they will be able to adopt practices and technologies that reduce vulnerability and build resilience to climate change impacts in the long run.  The project therefore supported farmers to implement a range of farming practices adapted to the changing climate focusing on agronomy, agroforestry, livestock, post-harvest management systems, weather and climate information, renewable energy and more effective energy systems, village level financial services, rural micro-enterprises , access to micro credit and market linkages. Farmer to farmer learning platforms and methods such as Farmer Field Schools, Field Days, learning visits, public extension services and a range of knowledge and communication materials were used to promote practices; scaling out and up. Climate adapted farming practices demonstrated included, a range of soil and water conservation techniques, drought tolerant crop varieties, increasing crop type/variety diversification, livestock fodder crop production, zero livestock grazing, increasing market offtake for livestock to reduce pressure on pastures, micro and small scale irrigation, livestock breed improvement (goats), improved post-harvest processing and storage.  When comparing the design of the ToC and the actual implementation, the project maintained it’s theory of change during implementation. However, the terminal evaluation and board meeting noted that a more systematic evaluation and comparitive study of impacts of similar projects is required to establish the effectiveness of the proposed pathways to change and whether other pathways would have been equally or more effective.  However, from the project’s own assessments and surveys it is clear that the farmer-to-farmer approaches e.g. Farmer Field Schools, Field Days, trainings and look and learn visits were very effective at scaling out good practices and ensuring farmers peer learning and collaboration. This was clearly the case for adoption of drought tolerant crops/varieties, soil and water conservation, pen-fattening and sales of livestock, village savings and lending groups, micro-insurance, fodder crop production, energy saving stoves and use of rainguages to support agricultural decision making.  One of the key lessons emerging from the assessment of the implementation and achievements from the Theory of Change is that, the relevance, cost and labour involved in a technology or practice tended to determine to rate and scale of adoption. One of the key examples highlighted by the project is the uptake of wood saving stoves in Buhera District. The wood saving stoves were widely adopted in the project’s Climate Smart Villages and beyond because of their relevance to the firewood access challenges in the district (labour/time involved in collecting firewood), the low cost and ease of implementing the technology and to the environmental benefits realised in terms of catchment management and protection of the fragile ecosystem. On the other hand, whereas irrigation is viewed as a priority to enhance resilience in all the three districts as well as at national level, the cost of the solution limits scaling out and up as neither farmers nor rural district councils currently have the finances to invest in large scale infrastructure projects.  One of the concerns highlighted in the terminal evaluation and the terminal board meeting is that impacts in the longterm could be reversed if results are not sustained and consolidted. An enabling policy and macro-economic environment is critical in sustaining the economic, social and environmental capitals built by the project as essential ingredients for communities abilities to adaptt and build resilience to increasing climate change impacts. It is therefore recommended that a post project assessment be conducted to ascertain project impacts that are likely to endure. Also, it is recommended that both national government, district authorities and development partners continue to consolidate and build on the results achieved. OXFAM and UNDP are committed to continue to consolidte and build on results achieved through other projects and ressource mobilization. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | *(not set or not applicable)* | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The project is rated as satisfactory overall. As the project has already come to an end, this assessment is mostly based on what had already been achieved as no significant activities apart from the terminal evaluation were carried out in the reporting period.    Overall, the project made good progress towards its objectives in a difficult operating environment (economically, politically and environmentally). It also made addressed the gender disparities leading to satisfactory progress towards empowering women and women-headed households. It made significant and satisfactory progress towards the targets of Output 1, which enabled beneficiaries to built their adaptive capacity through the building of assets, income enhancement and diversification and access to financial services. The fact that the project had short-comings in the use of climate information has limited its ability to empower beneficiaries with a key decision-support tool to deal with climate change and variability. The generation, dissemination and use of user-defined climate information is part of the project logic that is critical to the long-term success of the other project components, which the project failed to address, largely due to challenges at the level of the institutions responsible to generating, disseminating and applying such information at the beneficiary level. The project partners recognized this and are taking measures to address this issue through subsequent interventions. It should be noted that these interventions should not be limited to short term, project-bound activities, but to supporting the mainstreaming of climate information generation and dissemination among the relevant institutions so that the knowledge and skills are not limited to just a few individuals.    The implementation of the project is satisfactory as the project was managed effectively and efficiently despite the delay in completing the Terminal Evaluation. Financial delivery and risk management were largely on track. This was against the background of a difficult operating environment that the project operated in. | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN2:** gender equality as significant objective |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| While the project did not deliberately aim for or document direct linkages between project activities and reductions in GBV, some indirect linkages emerge. The project supported financial independence of women, and although the issue of GBV did not come up in the TE, the findings indicate that women have a larger degree of financial independence and ability to sustain themselves and their families even without a partner. The project has also documented anecdotal evidence e.g. stories of men sharing care work with women and taking up traditionally female chores such as washing up as well as women indicating that even if their partners were to leave or die, they would be able to sustain the family. Men explained that the project interventions, such as biogas for cooking, made it easier for men to share in household tasks. Stories are documented in fliers and MSC stories in the project progress reports. |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| Although there is no record of a Gender Analysis and Action Plan having been developed at the design stage, the Project Document speaks of the use of gender sensitive approaches during the Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment that preceded the design of the project.  The lack of a gender analysis and action plan document is an important issue as the project objective had a deliberate focus on reducing vulnerability of women and women headed households to climate variability and change in the project area. Of the total 10,100 households targeted by the project in the three districts, 7000 were expected to be women with the remainder of 3,100 being men, youth and other vulnerable groups. By the end of June 2018, 8103 households (3292 male and 4811 female headed households) in Buhera, Chimanimani and Chiredzi districts were reached. The pre-project expectation of the share of female headed households in the districts turned out to be over estimated and in order to manage community expectations of gender equal opportunities, the project ended up with revised gender targets over the course of implementation. It is important to note, however, that the 3292 male headed households most of the time also includes a female co-beneficiary.  In as much as there was no Gender Action Plan, the project took deliberate measures to ensure women empowerment and gender equality. Examples include:  - Project partners encouraged women’s participation in decision making bodies of irrigation committees and enterprises, women received capacity building to take up leadership roles.  - Women were encouraged to form financial savings and business enterprises to achieve financial independence.  - Women were supported to venture into value chains which were previously male dominated, e.g. the Michigan Peas, the honey and the cattle value chain. Producer groups involving both genders were formed and a deliberate effort was made to ensure women participation.  - The project reached more women than men in the CCA trainings and the collection of weather data in Climate Smart Villages was also largely managed by women.  - The project partners also carefully managed the relationship with local men/partners to women, ensuring that both genders felt that the project provided benefits to the community. The TE for instance documented that the project has unlocked the potential that women have as project managers without threatening the position of men. The complimentary use of these capabilities has the potential of creating new social dynamics which will work to the benefit of all.  The deliberate women empowerment and gender equality measures are documented in the TE as well as project reports, incl. UNDP M&E reports. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| The project had a deliberate focus on women empowerment and gender equality, based on the assumption that many of the most vulnerable households in the targeted areas were women led. One of the coping strategies in times of economic distress and drought in the targeted areas is for men to migrate in search of jobs, leaving women and children in a challenging situation and not always managing to send home the resources needed to support the family. Similarly, gender disparities still characterize all aspects of development in the country. The country was ranked 156th in the global gender related development index according to the United Nations Human Development Report (2017). Women have low status and limited opportunities with respect to access, control and ownership of economic resources – and also has limited say in decision making processes. As such gender inequalities affect women's chances of accessing livelihood assets and limit the livelihood choices that women have in the face of climate change. As documented in the TE, the project took deliberate efforts to empower women to participate in otherwise male dominated value chains, e.g. the beef value chain and take up decision making positions, e.g. in VSL’s and producer groups. This had both a significant effect on womens own feeling of empowerment and the appreciation of male beneficiaries appreciation of women’s capacities. With increased incomes and livelihood opportunities, more equitable decision making and collaboration across genders, the chances of achieving sustainable resilience outcomes is deemed to be larger. |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

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| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |

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| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **SESP:** [PIMS 4713 Social and Environmental Screening Procedure \_SESP\_.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4713/213509/1718090/1724996/PIMS%204713%20Social%20and%20Environmental%20Screening%20Procedure%20_SESP_.docx)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| Practitioners Voice:  Interview with Dr. Unganai, OXFAM, project manager of the Scaling Up Adaptation with a Focus on Rural Livelihoods project.    What are the climate risks facing Zimbabwe?  Zimbabwe is already experiencing more frequent droughts, mid season dry spells, heavy rainfall events, with increased frequency and severity as per future climate projections.  The changing climate is an additional stressor for vulnerable rural communities, which are already struggling with limited livelihood options, low incomes and social challenges. Namely communities in the semi-arid parts of Zimbabwe have limited livelihood options.  In these areas, land degradation and deforestation caused by agricultural practices, agricultural expansion and excessive harvesting of timber contributes to siltation of water sources and declining agricultural yields. This in turn renders communities increasingly vulnerable to climate risks such as droughts, mid season dry spells and heavy rainfall.  How does this affect your economy and society?  The smallholder farmers in semi arid regions, who rely on rainfed agriculture, are among the most vulnerable population groups. With increasing frequency of droughts and mid season dry spells, the resulting water scarcity contributes to people loosing yields and livestock. In combination with an already depressed economy and limited other income options, the lost livelihood opportunities force men and women to migrate to be able to sustain their families, leaving the elders and children at home. The trend of worsening poverty is clear, with the annual Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment documenting decrease in incomes over time from 2013-2017.  What are you doing about it?  The Scaling Up Adaptation with a Focus on Rural Communities project has helped communities to build agency. The project has targeted households in the vulnerable districts of Buhera, Chiredzi and Chimanimani to better absorb weather related shocks, bounce back and building long term resilience.  - Instead of only depending on one type of agricultural activity, households have diversified their liveilhoods. Families now work with several types of crops and livestock, spreading their investments and thus becoming less vulnerable to climatic shocks and stressors.  - The project has also helped smallholder farmers to get better connected to the markets. One of the challenges for many smallholder farmers is to link up with a ready market. The project has helped farmer groups connect to livestock markets, honey buyers and contract buyers of agricultural produce – ensuring that farmers have a ready market as well as access to input and technical expertise from private sector partners.  - The project has also showcased how model climate smart villages can look. Through holistic investments across renewable energy, water harvesting and irrigation technologies, a whole valuechain approach to diversify and strengthen incomes, improved access to finance for adaptation investments, awareness raising for improved climate change understanding and investments in weather forecasting systems , the project has showcased how a well throught through package provides more impact, than isolated investments e.g. in water or renewable energy.  What are you doing to build long-term resilience?  The project has now come to an end, but OXFAM continues to work in the region scaling up the adaptation model with support from SIDA. Also the succesful experiences and the lessons learnt from this project has informed the formulation of a project proposal from Government of Zimbabwe to the Green Climate Fund supported by UNDP and CRIDF to scale up across the semi-arid southern region, where climate change impacts are felt the worst. |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| The following links are stories written for the project and appeared in the public print media:    https://www.herald.co.zw/irrigation-as-defence-against-climate-extremes-for-farmers/  https://www.herald.co.zw/partnerships-key-to-societal-priorities/  https://www.herald.co.zw/chimanimani-farmers-restore-wetland-to-face-changing-future/  https://www.herald.co.zw/buhera-farmers-look-to-organised-beekeeping/  https://www.herald.co.zw/cheers-as-nyanyadzi-irrigation-rehab-boosts-output/  https://www.herald.co.zw/from-cow-dung-to-electricity-lives-change-for-chiredzi-villagers/    The following Video links are stories done for the project and appeared on national television several times:    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q21LsU4ilqo&t=23s  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zr\_wrQJVdUM  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wrRD1T-lknM  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WA94Ix\_c78    Media story: Let it Flow. The story of how the Nyanyadzi Irrigation Scheme weathered the storm - http://www.zw.undp.org/content/zimbabwe/en/home/stories/let-if-flow--improving-water-access-in-nyanyadzi-.html |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

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| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| No |

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| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |
| No |

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| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| No |
| No |

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| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [RESUBMISSION of CEO Endorsement (PIMS 4713\_Zimbabwe SCCF\_13Aug2014.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4713/213509/1669639/1669920/RESUBMISSION%20of%20CEO%20Endorsement%20%28PIMS%204713_Zimbabwe%20SCCF_13Aug2014.doc) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| The newly constituted Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement through the Climate Change Management Department is the focal point for UNFCCC and collaborated closely with the Executing Agency UNDP. Oxfam was the implementing partner for the project with project activities in the target districts. The responsible partners SAFIRE in Chimanimani and Buhera districts, and PLAN International in Chiredzi district took care of local project implementation and presence. The Environmental Management Agency and UNDP further collaborated on a parallel/sister project Integrated Planning Systems which focused on the capacity building on district authorities on climate change and this project shared board meetings with the SCCF project for synergies and collaboration. The University of Zimbabwe, Department of Geography, MSD and AGRITEX were responsible for the output on Climate Information with UZ as lead. Due to implementation and collaboration challenges, this component ended up being led by Oxfam. These stakeholders were all part of the project board along with 3 Rural District Council representatives.    At the district level, the main project stakeholders included the Rural District Councils and the Office of the District Administrator which coordinated the participation of government entities such as the Department of Mechanisation, Department of Irrigation, the Zimbabwe National Water Authority and its sub-catchment committees in the districts, AGRITEX, EMA, the Ministry of Lands and civil society organisations. The district level entities either sat as members of the District Steering Committees or provided technical support to local farmers at the various project sites.    The District Project Steering Committees in all three districts, consisted of government organizations/departments and were responsible for regular review of project progress, input into project work plans; ensure project ownership at district level and relevance of adaptation strategies. The active use of this existing structure in turn secured district ownership and engagement in implementation of strategies.    One of the examples of collaboration is that the Department of Mechanization was particularly involved in the support to communities with the design and construction of catchment rehabilitation activities, soil conservation structures such as gabions for gully rehabilitation, and the provision of advice on conservation agriculture.  Another example is how the EMA led sister project Integrated Planning Systems project supported the development of district adaptation plans, which involved most of the district actors supporting the SCCF and drawing on SCCF experiences.    The project collaborated with a number of private sector partners. The private sector partners included relevant buyers for each value chain as well as financial institutions, who in partnership provided ready markets, access to micro finance for inputs and support for improved agronomic practices. Although initial contact was facilitated by the project, the tarmers groups were directly involved in dealing with private sector partners through innovation platforms which increased the market understanding among farmers groups and built relationships that farmers are now able to sustain on their own |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.