

Zimbabwe



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1. Political Development

Zimbabwe has continued to experience instability and political unrest after the presidential elections held in March 2002. The situation is generally tense and it has become increasingly dangerous for political opponents and dissidents to act. Government-sanctioned intimidation and violence against political opponents, and others perceived as opponents to the government such as the independent media, teachers, trade unions and other civil society actors, have continued. Through a series of newly introduced laws, such as the Public Order and Security Act (POSA), the police have been given far-reaching powers. Allegations of arbitrary and politically motivated arrests and imprisonment are many. There are reports on torture and inhumane treatment while in police custody.

Since the beginning of 2003, large numbers of high-level opposition party (MDC) officials have been arrested, including members of parliament and the party leadership. The MDC President, Morgan Tsvangirai, along with the Secretary General, Welshman Ncube, and shadow minister for agriculture, Renson Gasela, are on trial charged with treason. In March this year the opposition successfully called for a nation-wide mass “stay away” in protest of the current regime and the lack of democracy in the country. Massive retributive violence followed, as hundreds of opposition supporters were assaulted and/or arrested. Amnesty International and other international organisations and governments have published strong statements denouncing the on-going human rights violations perpetrated by the government.

In connection with the by-elections held in March there was increased political violence. The run-ups were marred by politically motivated violence and harassment. There were allegations of human rights violations, including organised violence and large-scale intimidation against opposition candidates and officials.

Freedom of expression has come under increasing restrictions, with representatives of independent media being harassed and arrested. Alarming, the judicial system continues to be under attack as independent lawyers and judges have been intimidated and targeted by political violence. Members of civil society and non-governmental organisations are working under increasingly difficult and dangerous circumstances as restrictions and harassment is intensifying. Altogether, the political situation continues to deteriorate.

The government imposed 'fast track' land reform program has been completed. According to the government, all the land subject to reallocation has been turned over to its new owners. The reallocation program has resulted in large-scale evictions and seizures of commercial farms, often under lawless and violent circumstances. Reports of violence and intimidation are many. As a result, hundreds of thousands of black farm workers have been forced off the farms, leaving them unemployed and homeless. The decrease in commercial farming following the evictions add to the shortage of food experienced in the region due to draught. The alarming humanitarian situation contributes to the overall volatility in the country.

2. Economic Development

During the reported period, the Zimbabwean economy continued its trend of rapid contraction and fell deeper into crisis. The GDP has continued its alarming downward trend from –5 percent in 2000 down to –8 percent in 2001 and –11.9 percent in 2002. The prospects for 2003 look bleak as no major changes in policies have been implemented up to date. The economic decline has manifested itself in severe shortages of food items, rising unemployment, increasing inflation and crucial shortages of foreign exchange coupled with acute fuel and energy shortages. The returns from the tobacco auction, Zimbabwe's biggest foreign exchange earner, are expected to be lower than previous years due to the fast-track land reform. Estimates on the 2002 marketing season fell from within the range of 165 000–170 000 million kgs, down from 200 000 million kgs in 2001 and 230 000 million kgs in 2000. The big slump is however expected during the 2003 marketing season.

The economic policies pursued by the government, coupled with drought that affected the Southern African sub-region during the period, lead to severe shortages of the staple food maize. Alongside sugar, cooking oil and wheat, to mention a few products, maize has been in short supply in shops throughout the country. The 2001/2002 harvest produced a serious shortfall – 600 000 metric tonnes deficit of maize as of August 2002 – which has resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe with more than 7 million Zimbabweans in need of food aid.¹ While the sub-region is showing signs of recovery from the drought, the policies pursued by the government in Zimbabwe have led to a continued economic decline and expanded humanitarian crisis.

Investments, both foreign and domestic, have been seriously hampered by the rapidly declining local currency (ZWD) and a general lack of confidence in the economy and political developments, as well as a deteriorating situation regarding the rule of law and property rights. Coupled with the human resource problem due to migration and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the outlook for the economy continues to look disastrous unless the government introduces a series of policy changes. The fast-track land reform has disrupted commercial farming activities and the resettled farmers lack the agricultural imports needed for suc-

¹ The shortage of food is expected to go on until the next harvest. However, producers are likely to sell their crops outside the country if existing price controls are kept, which may prolong the humanitarian crisis.

cessful farming. An estimated ZWD 160 billion is required to adequately support the communal and resettled farmers with seeds, fertilisers and capacity building initiatives. The supplementary budget allocation is around five percent this figure.

Inflation has continued to increase and during the last six months it has risen from 116 percent to an estimated 240 percent, due to the increased money supply by the government. The inflation rate is causing problems for exporters as well as domestic consumers. The disposable incomes of Zimbabweans are eroded and savings diminished as the purchasing power is decreasing. The official exchange rate was kept at ZWD 55 per USD for a long time but it is slowly being adapted to a more realistic level. At ZWD 824 per USD the new rate still continues to skew the market. The limited foreign exchange in the country has created a parallel market for foreign exchange. During the reported period the value of the currency declined rapidly on the parallel market going from ZWD 300 per USD to the current value of ZWD 1500 per USD.

The arrears of both the public and private sector to international creditors have increased substantially and are now estimated to exceed USD 1 billion. According to the latest official figures, arrears to the IMF amount to more than USD 102 million, to the World Bank more than USD 134 million, and to the African Development Bank and African Development Fund more than USD 137 million. Zimbabwe's payments to the IMF have remained inadequate as less than 5 million USD was paid out during the first half of 2002 while making no payments were made to the World Bank or African Development Bank. This has led the Executive Board to initiate a procedure to suspend Zimbabwe's voting and related rights in the IMF as neither the criteria of policy performance nor the payments records are satisfactory. The largest share of the parastatals' debts concern import of oil and electricity by NOCZIM and ZESA².

² NOCZIM – National Oil Company of Zimbabwe, the parastatal for the import of oil products. ZESA – Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Agency, the parastatal for electricity supply.

3. Social Development

During the period signs of increased poverty are evident, exacerbated by the continued deterioration of the political and economic environment and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The collapse of the economy has had catastrophic consequences for the delivery of social services, such as education and the health services. In tandem with the economic decline the social sectors have been severely affected by the migration of qualified personnel such as teachers, doctors, nurses and social workers. The deteriorating economy as well as political and security concerns are factors behind migration, as many professionals have been accused of supporting the opposition. Thus, a majority of the population does not have access to basic health care services. Private facilities are priced beyond the reach of most of the population. Furthermore, the effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic are felt throughout all segments of society as more than a third of the adult population are infected with HIV. The above factors have increased the strain on the already weakened capacity of the state and added pressure on family networks to carry the increasing costs of health services and funerals.

At the end of the reporting period social development indicators reached alarming proportions. The majority of the deaths of children under-five occurred due to aids and the number of aids-orphans have surpassed 780 000. The average life expectancy in Zimbabwe is down to 39 years and surveys show that 3800 people per week die from HIV/AIDS-related ailments. The total population has declined from 12,8 million to 11,6 million between 1980 and 2002.

Women and children are extremely vulnerable in the deteriorating circumstances. The family structures have been weakened by the HIV/AIDS pandemic and this in combination with a decline in social services hit particularly hard on the large number of child-headed households in the country.

4. Swedish development co-operation with Zimbabwe

Due to the political crisis and deteriorating situation regarding human rights and rule of law in Zimbabwe, Sweden decided to terminate all government-to-government support to Zimbabwe in 2001. However, although bilateral aid has been suspended, Sweden has continued to support Zimbabwe through non-governmental and civil society organisations within the areas of human rights and democracy, HIV/AIDS, and humanitarian assistance. The Embassy also manages a portfolio of regional programmes in the field of water management, good governance and human rights, macro-economic management and HIV/AIDS. In the end of the reporting period, Sida and the embassy initiated a process of revising the current Swedish position to development co-operation with Zimbabwe. A government decision is expected in the end of June 2003.

4.1 Support to democracy and human rights

Support to democracy and human rights is one of the main areas of Swedish development assistance to Zimbabwe. Within this field the Embassy has entered into new agreements with Zimbabwean partners during the last six months as well as continued ongoing commitments in the areas of elections, the parliament, local democracy, the judiciary, the constitution, gender, media, the rights of the child and the disabled, and culture.

An important agreement was signed with the Institute for Democracy in South Africa (Idasa) for a programme to strengthen the capacity of 13 civil society organisations working in the democracy and human rights sector. The objective of the project is to build and strengthen the abilities of the various organisations to respond in an effective and professional manner to the needs arising from the current social, economic and political environment. The programme includes leadership training, the question of values, vision and mission of the organisation, institution building including providing coaches for the executive directors, regional and sectors civil society exchanges and skills training.

4.1.1 Elections

Within the area of elections the Embassy supports several organisations and initiatives with components aimed at promoting free and fair elec-

tions and wide political participation. The importance of reaching out to the whole country has been one of the Embassy's concerns, which has resulted in the support to networks of organisations. Support to the coalition of civil society organisations observing elections, Zimbabwe Electoral Support Network (ZESN), has continued to be a priority during the reporting period. The political environment in which ZESN operates continues to be fraught with uncertainty and hostility. Acts of violence are being committed against real and imagined members and supporters of the opposition and ZESN is perceived by the government to belong to the opposition.

During the last six months Zimbabwe had rural district council elections as well as by-elections. ZESN could neither monitor nor conduct voters' education in all the districts as they were denied access in some areas. The interaction with voters was conducted mainly through distribution of posters and pamphlets on voters' education. There have been a number of issues raised by donors regarding the capacity of and how ZESN functions. During this period a strategic workshop and organisational assessment exercise was held to address some of these issues.

4.1.2 Support to Parliament

The Embassy supports the Research and Information Department at Parliament to collect data and establish a database. The layout of the database will allow the Members of Parliaments to click on his/hers constituency and find information about many different sectors. This way of mapping data from each constituency is a user-friendly way aimed at facilitating and strengthening the relation between the MP and the people he/she represents. Discussions between the documentation department at Parliament regarding Hansard are ongoing. The project contains technical support as well as ideas on how to extend the distribution, access and visibility of the parliamentary debates. Final touches on support to the Hansard are now being made. A major concern from the Embassy has been on the distribution of the Hansard. The Clerk of Parliament, though, has now submitted a plan for the distribution of the proceedings to secondary schools, colleges, communities and universities libraries but the Hansard will also be distributed via mobile libraries. This will enable the citizens of the country to get a better picture of what their elected representatives are debating in Parliament.

4.1.3 Local government support and civic education

During the period Sweden phased out the previous support to the Association of Rural District Councils (ARDC). Sweden has supported the organisation since its establishment in 1991.

This year the Embassy started supporting a study-circle project on human rights in the rural areas through the Human Rights Trust of Southern Africa (SAHRIT). It is a pilot project and the outcome will provide a basis for long-term support. The project is centred on empowering the community economically through a revolving fund.

One of Zimbabwe's most well-established organisations for civic education is the Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET), which was founded in 1995. Sweden has supported CIVNET earlier and after a reorganisation last year CIVNET has embarked on a new 5-year-pro-

gramme, supported by Sweden. CIVNET is working with other established institutions and organisations in trying to get different stakeholders on board. The training programme is about election/voting, political awareness, peace and reconciliation etc. During the period, CIVNET held workshops at the provincial level around the topics of participation, HIV/AIDS and development, in order to train trainers who in turn would lead workshops at the local level. Over 480 trainers participated in the provincial level workshops and over 50 000 copies of participation-related material was distributed. Plans for supporting the next phase of CIVNET's programme began during this period.

4.1.4 The judiciary

Support for the Legal Resources Foundation (LRF) continued and preparation for further support began during the period. LRF continued to play an important role in society by making judicial advisory services and legal assistance accessible to the poor in Zimbabwe. During the period, the paralegal programme saw a number of new cases (averaging over 1000 cases per month) and followed up on roughly the same number of earlier cases. Through the educational outreach programme and through the distribution of pamphlets, information on the legal system continued to be disseminated. A number of handbooks, books and pamphlets were also completed during the period including a manual for the paralegal trainers and practitioners. Moreover, LRF continued its work with cases that have been identified as test cases of public interest.

Support to the Legal Unit of the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum has continued. The project aims at supporting legal prosecution of politically motivated violence. The organisation compiles reports that are widely disseminated and play an important role in the documentation of violence in Zimbabwe. During the period, two important reports were compiled and disseminated widely. The first report was an examination of alleged violators and their violations pre- and post-presidential elections. The second major report was on the torture by state agents during January 2001 to August 2002. Continued support to the organisation was being prepared as the agreement is coming to an end.

4.1.5 The constitution revisited

During the period, support to the National Constitution Assembly (NCA) continued. As the agreement reached an end during the period, Sweden provided bridge funding for a three-month period while the donors evaluated the organisation. To evaluate NCA the donors contracted two teams of evaluators, with the first team to perform an evaluation on organisational development and the second team to perform an evaluation of financial management. Sida supported the evaluation by contracting the consultancy firm, *K2 Techtop* for the financial management part. The results of the evaluation showed that NCA has a strong grassroots following but needs to focus more on its organisational development during the coming period. Sweden extended its bridge funding for another four months to cover operational costs of the organisation while the organisational development aspects are fettered into a new proposal for future support to the NCA, which is currently being discussed among the donors and NCA.

4.1.6 Gender

The support to Musasa Projects' Bulawayo Office continued during the period. The organisation continued to conduct educational activities on domestic violence as well as HIV/AIDS. The activities include training service providers, such as police officers and health personnel, in order for them to better handle domestic violence cases. The provision of counselling, legal and shelter services also continued during the period. An impact assessment of the activities has shown that the communities around Bulawayo are making use of the counselling facilities and that the police has started to play an active role in referring many of the clients who come for counselling.

4.1.7 Media

Following the Sida/Norad study of the media sector, an agreement was signed with the Media Institute for Southern Africa Zimbabwe Chapter, MISA-Zimbabwe. The agreement is towards core support for MISA-Zimbabwe's 2002–2004 programme. The programme is based on four pillars in order to promote a free, independent and diverse pluralistic media. As a reaction to the deteriorating situation in the country as regards to press freedom, MISA-Zimbabwe will focus on training for media workers and institutions, information for public education and awareness raising initiatives, lobbying and advocacy for media law reforms, as well as administrative support and capacity building of MISA-Zimbabwe's own structures.

During the period, an agreement was signed with the Swedish Institute for Further Education of Journalists (Fojo), for a preparatory study on a media project. The study of the media sector in Zimbabwe raised the need for further mid-level training for journalists in order to raise the levels of the profession in the country. The Fojo study resulted in a Fojo/MISA training programme for journalists, which is currently being drafted.

4.1.8 The rights of children and the disabled

Sida signed a three-year agreement with the Scripture Union of Zimbabwe for a national programme aimed at rehabilitating children living on the streets. Approximately 12 000 children live on the streets in Zimbabwe. The programme will be located in Bulawayo, Mutare and Masvingo and the main objectives of the programme are to reduce the vulnerability of children on the streets to sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS and sexual abuse, to improve their physical and psychosocial well-being, to provide access to education, training and employment, to support and strengthen the children's families, to advocate for the rights and needs of children, and particularly children on the streets, and to encourage local community participation in this work.

The agreement with Save the Children UK was extended by two years until December 2005. The volume of funding was expanded in order to reach more children. Sida responded to an emergency appeal to feed children in Mutorashanga, as the food crises deepened in December 2002. Funding was planned to last until May 2003, but as the situation is not improving Sida is currently considering a proposal to extend and expand the programme in Mutorashanga.

In December 2002 Sida entered into partnership with CARE Zimbabwe. The project aims at building poverty mitigation mechanisms for poor households by addressing problems of lack of capital, skills and services that hinder economic growth in rural areas. The project will increase access to financial services in rural areas to assist investments in income-generating activities, which in turn will help diversify income-sources for rural households and reduce reliance on agriculture. The project uses a community-based management methodology, which builds the capacity of communities to mobilise and manage their financial resources. CARE will also work with the National Council for Disabled Persons in Zimbabwe and target at least 750 households of disabled persons in the initial phase of the programme. CARE will also work with Sida partners such as the Human Rights Trust of Southern Africa on community-based income-generation and management.

Following the Cyclone Eline, Sweden provided humanitarian support through Save the Children-Norway (SCN) among other organisations. Among the activities supported was the renovation and reconstruction of the worst hit schools in Bikita district, Masvingo Province. Funds were made available to renovate and reconstruct the worst affected schools, provide furniture and textbooks. During the period, this project was visited and the support was extended to include additional furniture to schools that have had new classrooms constructed by earlier funding from Sida. Given the current humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe support was also given to SCN to procure food and establish a supplementary feeding programme that targets children under five as well as pre- and primary school children.

4.1.9 Culture support

During the reporting period all the agreements regarding culture support came to an end and several new agreements were prepared and entered.

During the reporting period a culture sector evaluation report was completed. The report was crucial in mapping the way forward for Sida's interventions. The evaluation confirmed that Sida's interventions focusing on theatre, literature, music and film were relevant. Instead of engaging with new partners the evaluation advised that Sida continue to work with the same partners, expand the volume of funding, and enter into long-term agreements. The evaluation also stressed the importance of establishing a fund for culture support that would be accessed by small organisations and groups that would otherwise not be able to receive funding from Sida. Such a fund would enable Sida to do more in the culture sector without increasing the administrative burden. A board consisting of major stakeholders within the culture sector would administer the fund and be responsible for the vetting of recipients of the fund as well as monitoring the proposed activities. The discussions held around the fund during the reporting period will culminate into a workshop in June 2003, followed by a launch of the fund scheduled for July 2003.

Another recommendation of the evaluation was that Sida would facilitate networking amongst the partners receiving Swedish funds. Sida sponsored a joint strategic planning workshop for Rooftop Promotions and Amakhosi. Both organisations were on-tour, with Rooftop focusing on the northern part of the country and Amakhosi on the

Southern part of the country. The strategic planning workshop enabled the two organisations to come up with touring programmes that would complement each other. The two organisations also agreed on the content of future training workshops. A major outcome of the strategic planning workshop was three-year strategic plans for each organisation and these plans are going to form the basis for the partnership with Sida in the next three years. We hope to finalise discussions and sign agreements by the end of April 2003.

The reporting period also saw the “weaning off” one partner, the Budding Writers Association of Zimbabwe. Sida has been co-financing the Budding Writers Association with SAIH, a Norwegian student organisation. However for 2003 SAIH managed to meet the costs in full.

Sida has funded capacity-building exercise of the Zimbabwe Book Development Council that was completed in October 2002. This exercise culminated into a three-year strategic plan for the organisation and a major component is to promote a culture of reading in Zimbabwe, specifically amongst the young people as the theme is “catch them young”. Sida hopes to finalise discussions around this partnership and enter into an agreement by the end of April 2003. The project will be co-financed together with the Rockefeller Foundation.

The agreement with the Zimbabwe Film Festival Trust was extended by one year to December 2003. As well as showing another Swedish Film this year, Sida will finance various activities around the festival. The Swedish entry this year is *Lilja-4-ever*. We hope to invite the director of the film to come to Zimbabwe during the festival and interact with other filmmakers, particularly the local filmmakers.

The evaluation of the Zimbabwe Association for Community Theatre (ZACT) was completed during the reporting period. The evaluation highlighted that although ZACT was facing serious administrative problems, the organisation’s work is relevant and efforts will have to be made to revamp it under an interim-board.

The contract with Children Performing Arts Workshop (CHIPAWO) was extended with another three years. During this period CHIPAWO will open at least 20 centres in the rural areas of Zimbabwe. A survey to ascertain where these centres will be is to be completed by mid-April. The current fuel shortages have hindered an early completion of the survey.

The agreement with the Zimbabwe College of music was extended by one year until December 2003. Prior to 2003 Sida funding was primarily for training teachers in music. In 2003 support will also include developing the college through setting up a music room equipped with instruments and a Public Address System. The music room will be accessible to aspiring musicians who will use it under the tutorship of a qualified music instructor. This move will make the college more accessible and relevant to the public. The good Public Address system will enable the college to host live bands and thus raise funds, which they can then use to sustain themselves.

4.2 HIV/AIDS

The last six months has seen many challenges and hurdles hindering the national HIV/AIDS response in Zimbabwe. Political tensions have continued to rise and polarisation between the two main political parties has continued to widen. This has been characterised by state sanctioned violence against perceived supporters of the opposition perpetrated by armed and police forces and militia and youth brigades. The independent media and sections of civil society have increasingly reported rape and other forms of sexual violence. This has obviously put the victims (mostly women and girls) at a heightened risk of HIV infection.

The current economic crisis with an enormous government deficit, inflation of 220% has been compounded by a food crisis. These issues have diverted government attention from the issues of HIV/AIDS.

Increasing levels of household poverty have resulted in many individuals being forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms such as contractual sex, which greatly heightens the risk of HIV infection. Widespread food shortages have had a particularly harsh effect of individuals infected with HIV by further compromising their immunity and escalating their descent to terminal illness. Chronic drug shortages and inadequate staffing levels have seriously hampered the health systems ability to cope with the increasing number of HIV/AIDS patients. The Ministry of Health has identified prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS (PMTCT), treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, condom procurement and distribution; safety of blood and quality home based care, as some of its main priorities in the response to the pandemic.

The significance of home-based care programmes in the continuum of care of terminally ill patients has increased. Unfortunately community care of terminally ill patients has, in many cases, replaced conventional institutional care and is stretching the coping mechanisms of communities already reeling from the socio-economic hardships of the day. The Pact Home-based Care (HBC) programme was evaluated in November 2002. The evaluation revealed that the objective of scaling up home-based care in the partner NGOs was achieved, mainly through the training of caregivers that immediately started implementing HBC. Over 10,000 patients benefited from the programme during 2002 and by March 2003 25,000.

The Mashambanzou Palliative Care Unit with 28-beds in Waterfalls cared for 303 patients out of which 136 passed away. Admission has gone up by 33 percent since the previous year. The Mashambanzou Care Trust was assisted with the introduction of a Human Resources Management System, and at the same time a mid-term evaluation took place. The evaluation confirmed that the introduction of a Human Resources Management System would assist the organisation to deliver more efficiently to be able to meet the increasing demand.

Approximately one-third of the children in Zimbabwe lives in household where one or both parents are infected with HIV. Aids-orphans are estimated to number approximately 800,000 and the vast majority of these have remained within the extended family or community. An increasing number of child-headed households are now present in many communities. The Mashambanzou Care Trust's Mbare Crèche gives

70 disadvantaged children from high-density area pre-schooling and feeds another 150 at the gates every day. The Pact HBC programme has an orphans and vulnerable children's component (OVC) attached to six of the 13 NGOs receiving support.

Deseret International was evaluated during the period and the need for a Management Audit of the entire organisation was identified. Discussions have been on going with Centre for Disease Control (CDC) to jointly fund such an exercise.

The National AIDS Council (NAC) has made great strides in strengthening the community response to the pandemic through the formation of district, ward- and village AIDS Action Committees. These committees are composed of key stakeholders from within the communities, representatives of non-governmental organisations, service providers etc. This process still continues to experience problems, which include lack of technical capacity within these structures. NAC in itself has had strengthen its monitoring and follow-up skills. The challenges facing NAC include strengthening the capacity within its decentralised structures and improve monitoring and evaluation tools. NAC still needs to fulfil its broader mandate of co-ordinating the national response and ensuring that HIV/AIDS is mainstreamed within all sectors.

In the past six months, support towards the prevention and mitigation of HIV was channelled through various non-governmental organisations. The challenge for the Embassy has been to ensure that the HIV/AIDS is responsive to the situation and the reality on the ground. Several strategies have been employed to achieve this, including supporting the distribution of food items to affected communities and provision of agricultural inputs as well as training on income generation.

Sida supports work-place peer-education programmes in predominantly male-dominated work places such as the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ), the Zimbabwe Iron and Steel Company as well as over twenty private companies including a few mines. The Embassy provides support to the formulation of HIV/AIDS policies in the work places. Under these projects, efforts are made to reach the surrounding communities by targeting the spouses and dependants of the workers. By targeting men with behavioural change programmes Sida hopes to address gender inequality as a driving force to the epidemic. In addition support is given to the formulation of gender empowerment curriculum and a handbook for victims of domestic violence as they have an increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. This handbook will be used to empower victims of domestic violence through giving information on women's rights, the laws of Zimbabwe, reproductive health and life skills etc.

An evaluation of the support to the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) was carried out during the period. The evaluation concluded the benefit of having an organisation that has a long standing commitment towards HIV/AIDS as well as the advantage of having the aids-work integrated into the administrative structure of the organisation. It should be noted that NRZ received three awards during October and November 2002 namely 1. The Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce Matabeleland Regional Award for Best Practices of HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign at workplaces, 2. Matabeleland AIDS Council

trophy for the Best Workplace HIV/AIDS Initiative and 3. The Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce National Award for the Best Practices on HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign at workplaces.

By strengthening the capacity of the business sector to respond to HIV/AIDS through the formulation of prevention programmes, policies, care and support strategies for sick workers, Sida hopes that the impact of aids on labour will be reduced in the long-term.

Sida is increasingly focusing support to prevention interventions towards young people. To this end, support is being provided for the construction of youth-friendly reproductive health centres, which will incorporate the provision of clinical services, counselling, peer education and educational entertainment activities.

Sida supports several community-based orphan-care projects. These projects aim to provide psychosocial and material support to aids-orphans in two rural communities in Masvingo province. Some of the activities include formation of community orphan-care committees, paying of school fees, providing food, equipping orphans with technical and micro-enterprise development skills, counselling and other forms of psychosocial support for the orphans. Efforts are currently underway to link the home based programmes with the orphan care programmes so that a child of terminally ill parents can be reached before the parents die. All the orphan-care and home-based projects try to address the poverty and deprivation that are inevitable outcomes in homes that are affected by aids. In these programmes orphans and carers are trained in development and management of small businesses, as well as vocational skills such as welding, carpentry, leatherwork etc. They are also provided with small loans to start income-generating activities. Most of these projects have community-run vegetable gardens that provide food for the terminally ill and the orphans in the community. Aids-affected households have been given agricultural inputs and there are plans to train communities on labour/capital-saving agricultural techniques and the cultivation of drought-resistant crops.

In the face of the current epidemic most of the projects have had to provide food relief to the most desperate families affected by HIV/AIDS and children in difficult circumstances.

In an attempt to strengthen the technical skills of its partners, the Embassy commenced on a capacity-building exercise for its partners. A workshop in participatory approaches to project management was carried out in October 2002 for all partners in the HIV/AIDS sector.

4.3 Humanitarian assistance

During the reporting period Sida renewed its agreement of support to the UNDP Relief and Recovery Unit (RRU) for 2002–2003. The unit has not been able to deliver as anticipated, partly due to lack of financial resources and partly because RRU has not been able to get the necessary co-operation from the government of Zimbabwe as regards access to information. As far as financial resources is concerned donors, including Sweden, have increased their allocations to RRU for 2003.

The government has still not approved RRU to monitor the use of humanitarian food assistance. This is of importance as all donors wish to have some form of guarantee that food aid donated by the international

community is not used for political purposes. This issue and the issue of studying the needs of the displaced people from the commercial farming areas is still on the agenda and is being discussed with the government. The previous problem of refusing to register NGOs wishing to assist in the distribution of food aid has been partly resolved as a number of international NGOs have been registered for food distribution.

Donors, the UN and the government of Zimbabwe have continued to meet on a regular basis to discuss the humanitarian situation but very little concrete has emerged from the meetings. The impression from the donors' side is that the government has not been co-operative in providing the necessary information on humanitarian needs. Needless to say that if donors and the UN do not get a proper assessment of coming humanitarian needs, this will affect donors planning and ability to react.

Swedish humanitarian assistance through the Regional UN appeal is not covered in this report.

5. Regional support to Southern Africa

5.1 Support to democratic governance

The support is channelled through a number of regional non-governmental organisations. The Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA) has received Swedish funding for the past three years to their capacity-building programme aimed at strengthening Electoral Management bodies and assisting in setting up platforms for free and fair elections. This project came to an end in February 2003 and an evaluation of the project will be carried out.

Plans are underway to support another project called Consolidating Democratic Governance in SADC. The project is aimed at strengthening the mechanism for qualitative and quantitative data collection for formulating criteria for evaluating democratic consolidation within SADC. This will be a research type of project that will result in country profiles on consolidation of democratic governance and adherence to international human rights norms and standards in the Southern Africa Region.

The Alternative Information Development Centre (AIDC) project was aimed at strengthening the capacity of NGOs in the region to act on the multilateral arena on trade and globalisation issues. This project came to an end and an evaluation of the project will be carried out.

The African Development Education Network (ADEN) is a sub-Saharan African network of more than a hundred grassroots organisations. The aim of the support is to strengthen the effectiveness of the member organisations in three areas. Firstly the Networking Programme seeks to build up the membership of ADEN and link them to share and exchange information, ideas and knowledge. The second area was the Coalition and Capacity Building Programme that seeks to enhance the institutional capacities and capabilities of the member organisations to carry out their work. Finally the third area was the Policy Advocacy Programme which encouraged the member organisations to go beyond the confines of their micro-situations to the macro-issues whose effects impinge on their work. The support came to an end in December 2002.

A new three-year agreement covering the period from 2002 to 2004 was signed with Women in Development Southern Africa Awareness (WIDSAA), whose activities are aimed at gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment as well as strengthening the capacity of women NGOs and strengthening linkages in the region. The activities provide

partner organisations with parliamentary lobby initiatives as well as working with women media organisations.

Complementary initiatives in the area of gender is being done by the Southern Africa Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) in its engendering parliament programme which enshrines the principle of gender equality and equity for the SADC region. The programme targets male and female parliamentarians as well as staff of parliaments, specifically the Committees clerks/secretary, researchers and librarians and information personnel in parliaments. The three-year project is designed to augment and supplement other initiatives on gender and capacity building and training at national and regional levels for policy makers and highlights the significant role of members of parliaments on women's empowerment and gender equality.

Support has also been given to the Centre for Peace Initiatives in Africa (CPIA) during 2002–2003, for peace-building initiatives and conflict prevention and conflict resolution activities. The activities at present focus on the developments in Zimbabwe but it has also a regional strategy. During the reporting period a lot of discussions took place with various stakeholders aimed at addressing Zimbabwe's current state of tension, which has affected the relationship between NGOs and the state. CPIA's activities include training of civilians to take up peace initiatives as well running a resource centre.

Human Rights Trust of Southern Africa (SAHRIT) is another regional NGO based in Zimbabwe that has received support aimed at mainstreaming human rights and democracy issues into public Institutions. SAHRIT has four self-contained programmes, Regional Human Rights and Policing Programme, Short Courses, State Party Reporting. The current agreement extends from 2002 to 2005 and is core funded by the Dutch and Norwegians.

Furthermore, under discussion is a regional initiative Strengthening the Voice of Poor People in Poverty Reduction in Southern Africa (SVOPPSA). This initiative is aimed at improving the quality of pro-poor policies in Southern Africa by increasing the involvement of the poor in their design and implementation. The project thrust is to contribute to strengthening both the responsiveness of the civil society sector to the poor and its capacity to pursue pro-poor change with government and private sector in the region for strengthening the voice of the poor in the region.

The increase in the number of regional organisations has led to an increase in the number of requests of funding by Sweden. However, a sizeable number of very good proposals dealing with democracy and human rights issues have unfortunately been turned down due to the budget cuts this a year. This situation is unfortunate as now there are greater opportunities, and at the same time a greater need, for promoting democracy and human rights through regional actors in conjunction with national representatives of civil society and other partners.

5.2 Support to water resources management

The regional water resources management programme is entering a phase where a number of steps have been taken towards consolidating and strengthening the programme. Discussions on how to structure further Swedish support to water resources management in the SADC region have taken place, guided by the revised strategy document that was drawn up in 2002, and the recommendations of the 2002 evaluation of the programme. Sida has been engaged in the planning of a workshop that will discuss further Swedish support to water resources management in Southern Africa with key stakeholders, which has been set for May 2003.

In the past, Sida in Harare did not have any other funds allocated to them apart from their travel budget. Since then an additional budget component has been allocated which enable funding of small activities.

The Shared river Inkomati was a joint research programme on the Nkomati River shared between South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique. The project has been completed and closed.

The Water Research Fund for Southern Africa (WARFSA) is a fund aimed at promoting research in Integrated Water Resources Management in Southern Africa. 12 projects have since been funded under the Phase II that was launched in July 2002.

The Institute of Water Sanitation Development co-ordinated a three-year project together with the Department of Water Development (DWD) in Zimbabwe and two South African institutes, whose objective was to develop a water quality monitoring system appropriate for developing countries (*Mupfure Water Quality Monitoring Project*). The project has been completed and closed. The IWSD has submitted a request for the funding of a workshop aimed at developing a proposal that will extrapolate the findings of the Water Quality-monitoring project to a regional perspective.

A new Executive secretary and a Water Expert have joined the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa (GWPSA). GWPSA is currently in the process of revising their work-plans and future focus.

The Environmental Monitoring Programme for the Zambezi River is implemented by Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) in partnership with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). The activity period for the project has ended and a draft final report has been submitted.

The project DRFN Netwise carried out by The Desert Research Foundation of Namibia aimed to increase availability of information on environmental management and facilitate co-operation between researchers and practitioners. The final financial reporting is in the process of being finalised. The technical reports have been submitted and approved.

The projekt ZACPRO 6.2 is aimed at establishing the Zambezi River Basin Commission as well as to develop a water resources management strategy for the Zambezi basin. The project is currently going through a process of refocusing following a review of the year 1 progress, which pointed to the need for a more process-focussed approach.

The project Every River has its people will end in September 2003. Towards the end of February 2003, the initiative team undertook a field visit on the Okavango basin in order to familiarise more with the project.

The aim of the three-year Pungwe River Basin Study is to develop an integrated management strategy for the basin. The second secretary undertook a field visit on the Pungwe basin.

In relation to Water Demand Management, teams have been appointed for the development of:

- Analytical Paper 3: Institutional requirements of WDM in Southern Africa.
- Discussion Paper 1: Assessment of Water Resources in southern Africa.
- Discussion Paper 2: Incorporating WDM into Regional Water policy and Strategy.
- Tertiary Training Module development.
- WDM Guidelines: Set of 12 guidelines for the region.

Regional teams have been appointed, their project plans have been submitted and reviewed, and agreements have been developed and signed.

Sida has hired a consultant to assist Sida in elaborating a strategy for future support to the Lake Malawi and Okavango Basins. A draft report has been produced.

Sida is currently assessing possible support to activities in the Okavango River Basin.

5.3 Macro-economic support

The Macro Economic and Financial Management Institute in Southern and Eastern Africa (MEFMI) has continued its work on capacity building within Ministries of Finance and Central Banks in the 10 member states. A lot of effort has also been put into developing a Strategic Plan for the years 2002–2006. During the period, the Ambassador opened a MEFMI forum for Deputy Governors and Permanent Secretaries/Secretaries to the Treasury. The forum focused on the MEFMI study on Macroeconomic Policy Co-ordination and also invited international experts on Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) to inform on the possible options for improving financial management. During the period, MEFMI informed the Embassy that the former Governor of the Swedish Central bank, Bengt Dennis, would deliver a keynote address at the MEFMI Central Bank Governors Forum in July 2003.

6. Administration and financial follow-up

During the period the move of the regional HIV/AIDS-secretariat was completed and its entire staff, except one, moved to Lusaka. Two new staff joined the Embassy to replace the political officer, the economist/human rights and democracy programme officer. A planning-day was held in September in order to plan the activities for the coming year and was carried out as a team-building exercise.

During the period it has become all too clear that there is need for a new chancery as the old one is no longer appropriate, considering the deteriorating security situation in the city centre of Harare. Furthermore, the offices have become unsuitable environments for work due to high-rise buildings which have been built besides the Embassy building, blocking all light in some areas of the office. Efforts to find a suitable location for the Embassy are ongoing.

Table: Financial follow-up

	Disbursed 2002	Disbursed 2003-05-15
Country Allocation	86 389 607	7 594 000
Democracy and Human Rights	30 250 810	4 299 000
Social Sectors	14 244 015	1 565 000
Infrastructure	-172 921	0
Natural Resources	2 392 781	92 000
Research Cooperation	2 397 492	0
Humanitarian Relief	9 399 922	0
NGO Support	16 595 517	Not available
Other	4 999 489	0
Administration	6 282 502	1 638 000
Humanitarian Budgetline: Zimbabwe	7 400 000	285 000
Humanitarian Budgetline: Regional programmes in Southern Africa (OCHA, ICRC, IFRC)	7 100 000	<i>Not available</i>
Support to Swedish NGO's	17 774 000	<i>Not available</i>

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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