



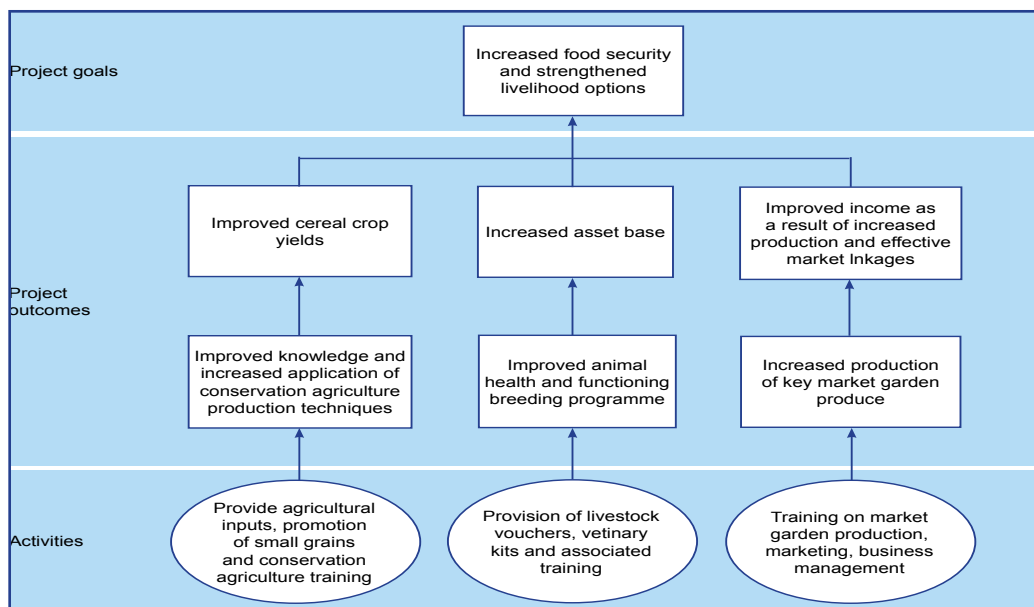
Zimbabwe

Livelihoods

2013/14

Food security and strengthening livelihood options

The Food Security & Livelihoods Programme aimed to contribute to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by strengthening livelihoods options for vulnerable people in the Midlands and Masvingo provinces of Zimbabwe. Up to 24,500 people were supported with provision of inputs for conventional agriculture, with training in conservation agriculture, with support to livestock production, and through development of communal market-garden linkages. The project activities were implemented from 2010 to 2014 by Oxfam in conjunction with two local partner organisations – Batanai HIV & AIDS Service Organisation (BHASO) and Midlands Aids Caring Organisation (MACO).



The above diagram presents a simplified explanation of how the project was expected to achieve change, through project activities and outcomes that were expected to contribute to the overall goal of the project.

Project date: April 2010 - March 2014

Evaluation: November 2013

Publication: February 2015

Evaluation Method

The review sought to evaluate the project's impact among households who received direct support from the project. Data from interviews with project participants and producers from nearby communities where the project had not been implemented were analysed using propensity-score matching and multivariate regression.

See the 'How are effectiveness reviews carried out?' document for more information on evaluation design. Details about the specific evaluation design used in this case are contained in the full report of the Effectiveness Review.

Results

Project outcome	Evidence of positive impact - overall	Evidence of positive impact - inputs and conservation agriculture group	Evidence of positive impact - small livestock group	Evidence of positive impact - communal market-garden linages group
Adoption of improved agricultural practices	YES	YES	YES	YES
Increase in number of crops cultivated	YES	YES	YES	YES
Increase in cereal crop production	YES	YES	YES	YES
Increase in vegetable production	YES	YES	YES	YES
Increase in livelihood activities	YES	NO	YES	YES
Increased household income	YES	YES	YES	YES
Improvement in wealth indicators	YES	NO	YES	YES
Increased food security and dietary diversity	YES	YES	YES	YES

The group supported by agricultural inputs and training in conservation agriculture produced more than double the quantity of crops than corresponding households in the comparison group. Participants generated much larger income from crop sales, and were eating a more diverse diet than the comparison households. However, there was less evidence among this group of an improvement in food security, and no indication of a change in terms of wealth indicators (asset ownership and housing conditions). Participants of the livestock support and market-garden groups were found to have generated even greater gains in agricultural production and sales, and in overall household income. Their increased engagement in livestock rearing and market gardening meant that they had increased the diversification of their income sources over the project's lifetime. Households in the market-garden intervention group demonstrated particularly positive results, with an estimated average income increase of 40 per cent, significant changes in wealth indicators, and improved food security and dietary diversity.

Going forward

Learning from this Effectiveness Review will be used to strengthen future programme work in support of smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe. In particular, technical experts at regional and global level will be engaged to provide support on the development of market linkages work in future projects. Agricultural production systems for smallholder farmers will be strengthened through policy engagement and through building the capacity of local institutions to deliver quality extension services.

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