



ASAP Africa

Letter from the Executive Director

Elizabeth Bara

With the first days of summer upon us we are enjoying long, lazy, hot days in the US. We reminisce about the short, relatively cold, crisp days that our friends in Africa are experiencing during their winter.

Yes, these are days when there is more darkness than light in Zimbabwe. How ironic that it is on this very day, June 21st, that Robert Mugabe has declared to the world that only God can remove him from power!

People are suffering unparalleled hardships. NGO field operations, including ASAP's operations, have been temporarily suspended until after the June 27th run-off election and the opposition candidate has withdrawn.

Things are looking bleak but on the positive side, the local Zimbabwe Dollar has been allowed to float on the open market recently. Prior to this time the government held the exchange rate to 3,500 ZWD:USD.

On the Malawi front, ASAP is nearly operational after only four months. Jeanette Batiste is actively recruiting local staff. Please join our efforts to address the root causes of poverty and donate to our Malawi fund raising campaign today.

At ASAP Africa, our steadfast commitment to continuing our work in Southern Africa remains stronger than ever, as does our need for your support. Please consider making a contribution today.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

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ZWD Exchange Rates to USD

Last weeks' daily value of the Zimbabwe Dollar offered by The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe

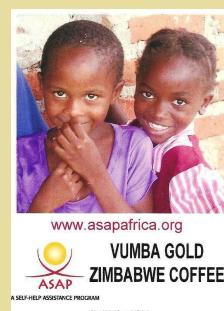
Monday June 16,	4,270,000,000 ZWD:USD
Tuesday June 17	4,952,000,000 ZWD:USD
Wednesday June 18	5,800,000,000 ZWD:USD
Thursday June 19	6,718,000,000 ZWD:USD
Friday June 20	Phones were reported out of order.

Volunteer—A Labor of Love for Africa

Please volunteer to pre-sell fresh roasted coffee from August 1 to 22nd for delivery by Labor Day.

It's easy, fun,
the coffee is freshly roasted!

Please contact
Mary for details
mary@onsafaritrading.com



ASAP Africa Project Expansion into Mutasa District

ASAP recognizes that the fight against poverty requires a holistic approach, bringing together a broad range of strategies. In 2008 ASAP will replicate our successful Community Holistic Initiative for Local Development "CHILD" program into the Mutasa District of Eastern Zimbabwe. Bringing the following 3 projects into the Mutasa area, which ASAP has been implementing in the neighboring Nyanga District, ASAP will begin to gain an understanding of the locally identified needs and begin to help develop new interventions to address those needs.



ASAP's Zimbabwe Country Director, Regai Tsunga , center, between Solomon Nyahangare and Stanley Dawa of Plan International.

The Kufusa Mari Project

In March 2008 ASAP Africa and Plan International Zimbabwe entered into a 3 year project partnership to provide financial services for 2,000 additional families in the Mutasa District. The ultimate goal of is for these families to better care for their children by increasing sustainable family income.

Including ASAP's ongoing 5 year project with CARE. ASAP will improve the lives of 13,000 new families by helping them form savings clubs.



Conservation Farming Training

"HANDEI" means "Let's Go" in Shona. At ASAP it means a woman will be empowered with knowledge and skills that will improve her health and nutrition.



Application of math skills are life survival skills — relevant far beyond the classroom.

BTG—Bridge the Gap Math Teacher Training

Beginning in January 2008, The Flora Family Foundation funded a two year project to expand the BTG project to enhance math skills for grade 6 and 7 students in 31 schools in the Mutasa District. The 111 schools in the BTG program since 2005 in Nyanga and Chibwe areas have shown an increase in interest in the teaching and learning math among both school children and teachers.

Although the school calendar has been interrupted repeatedly in 2008, due to the Presidential poll held on March 29th as well as the upcoming run-off election, teachers, students and ASAP BTG staff continue to make their best effort to help improve the teaching and learning of Math skills in these 142 schools.

Kufusa Mari Savings Club Update

Kufusa Mari (Save for the Future) was the name given to ASAP's Village Savings and Lending (VS&L) project in 2001 by the founding members. Today, ASAP's funded VS&L projects will help over 21,000 new savings club members, economically active poor, start and maintain savings clubs. Here is the status of each one of these projects:

The Kufusa Mari 2 project ended in March 2008 with 7,646 households forming savings clubs. The final report is currently pending.

The Rural Micro-Finance 2 Project began in June 2007 with a target of reaching 11,000 new members over 5 years. After less than a year, already 1,928 new members are active in clubs.

The Community Empowerment and Services Project, funded through Concern World Wide, aims to reduce the negative impact of HIV/Aids on 1,500 rural women and girls aged 10 to 49. ASAP has already reached 130 of these girls, providing appropriate livelihood activities through training in VS&L.

ASAP, with funding through Catholic Relief Services, will address the unique and urgent needs of Out of School Adolescents, providing funding for education, vocational, small business and life skills training. ASAP has already reached 1,453 of the 2,100 children (between the ages of 12 and 17) that will gain skills in VS&L through this three year project, which began in Oct. 2007.

Market linkages—Local Solutions to Local Problems

by: Lazarus Nyatsanga ASAP : Field officer

Over 600 entrepreneurs in Sakubva, an urban area near ASAP's office in Zimbabwe, are actively involved in savings clubs today, thanks to the "Kufusa Mari" – save for the future – project ongoing since 2006. About 80 miles away, in the remote rural farming area of Tombo, over one third of the families have been involved in Kufusa Mari savings clubs since 2004.



Kufusa Mari rural and urban members sharing experiences and addresses

In an effort to create market linkages, 12 urban Kufusa Mari savings club members recently traveled to Tombo area (with a little the help from ASAP) to meet their rural colleagues - where they received a warm rural welcome.

The rural farmers shared the schedule of times when they are able to offer a variety of items, such as beans, potatoes, onions, garlic, wheat, sunflower seeds, maize, chicken and rural handicrafts. The urban

savings club members offered to exchange grocery items such as cooking oil, salt and sugar, as well as farming inputs (seeds and fertilizers) and cash.

Having shared notes on demand and supply modalities, both parties went away pleased with the results with a business action plan for future.

ASAP serves as a catalyst to achieve local solutions to local problems.



Welcome, welcome: Tombo cluster welcoming Sakubva clients



Mbuya Mhlanya from Sakubva showing off the mangoes she bought from Tombo cluster

ASAP Malawi update

P.O. Box 44, Chikwawa Malawi Phone: 265-5-512-753

Jeanette Batiste arrived in Malawi on March 5th to head-up the establishment of the new ASAP program in Chikwawa District, located in the Shire Valley of Southern Malawi. This area follows the Shire river and is one of the most beautiful but poorest areas in the country.



Jeanette conducted a needs assessment for ASAP in Oct. 2007 and is now focusing on the nuts and bolts of establishing ASAP. Her progress has been swift—for Africa. Already ASAP has an operations agreement signed with the Government of Malawi, has established a local Board of Directors, has secured an

office building in Chikwawa area, and has taken delivery of an ASAP vehicle from the ASAP Zimbabwe program.



The Shire River in Chikwawa

Most importantly, Jeanette has received a warm reception from stakeholders and local organizations already working in the area, introducing ASAP and explaining the mission and ethos of our work. ASAP Africa Malawi is looking forward to working closely with all existing development agencies and local government in the area in order to maximize the benefits of our work and to avoid duplication of efforts.



Chikwawa Post office in Southern Malawi

Once local staff are recruited and trained, ASAP's initial project in the area will be a rural micro-finance project using the Village Savings and Lending model.

Please contribute to ASAP Africa's Malawi fund-raising campaign, to raise \$50,300 by Labor day. To date, \$14,856 has been contributed. If you are not in a position to make a donation, please consider volunteering to pre- sell 1lb. Bags of coffee on our behalf. The coffee is freshly roasted here at ASAP's Peachtree City office in Georgia and make and unique gift.

With your help, we will succeed!

A Self-Help Assistance Program

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ASAP welcomes Intern Peter Foster



Peter is a Junior at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, IL. He will graduate in 2010 with a triple degree in Economics/Finance, Business Administration (Management) and Public Policy (Foreign Policy). He was born and grew up in Zimbabwe and is working with the ASAP Georgia Team as a Financial and IT intern for the summer of 2008.