Market Assistance Pilot Program (MAPP) Household Baseline Survey for Catholic Relief Services and the Consortium for Southern Africa Food Security Emergency (C-SAFE).

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Market Assistance Pilot Program (MAPP)
Household Baseline Survey

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
Consortium for Southern Africa Food Security Emergency (C-SAFE)
Zimbabwe

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**Acronyms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRS</td>
<td>Catholic Relief Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSAFE</td>
<td>Consortium for Southern Africa Food Security Emergency</td>
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<tr>
<td>FFP</td>
<td>Food For Peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAPP</td>
<td>Market Assistance Pilot Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>PVO</td>
<td>Private Voluntary Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPU</td>
<td>Regional Program Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>US Agency for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAC</td>
<td>Vulnerability Assessment Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Statistical Notation**

Note that significant results of statistical tests are represented by notation after the statement.

i Pearson’s Correlation for a Bivariate Analysis significant to the 95% confidence interval.

ii Independent t-test significant to the 95% confidence interval.
Executive Summary

In August and September 2003, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) conducted a baseline survey of it proposed the Market Assistance Pilot Program (MAPP) for the Consortium for Southern Africa Food Security Emergency (C-SAFE) project. Support for the MAPP project was primarily obtained through the Food for Peace program at the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Analysis of this survey will provide a baseline from which C-SAFE will judge the impacts of the MAPP program prior to considering any possible expansion or extension within Bulawayo or to other areas of Zimbabwe. The overall objective of this report is to analyze current baseline data to determine the status of the intended beneficiaries prior to initiation of the sales and self-targeting activities of the MAPP. The report will assist C-SAFE to develop a clear understanding of the urban food access issues and pricing mechanisms/trends, as well as a consideration of coping mechanisms, at the outset of the program. This information will form the basis for ongoing comparison via regular program monitoring and a final survey. The combination of surveillance exercises will improve the supply of information available to manage marketing activities in Zimbabwe and better enable C-SAFE to safeguard the food and livelihood security of vulnerable groups and households within its operating areas.

The major finding of this study is that MAPP could greatly assist households in meeting its food requirements by providing the urban poor with consistent access to new food stocks at affordable prices. Sorghum could serve as a substitute crop for maize in the Southern part of the country where it is traditionally produced and consumed. Importantly, the price differential between sorghum and maize make it a good self-targeting crop.

Maize is the single most preferred primary staple in the local diet due to its historical consumption and production and relative availability. However, maize poses problems of availability and affordability to households that rely on the marketplace as its sole source of food. The survey finds that although sorghum is not currently widely available in local markets and maize is the only major staple food commodity purchased. MAPP’s plan to support sorghum in the marketplace will benefit households by improving access and affordability to staple food thus increasing household food security. The benefits of sorghum as a staple are in its lower cost. Of those households that purchased sorghum, the average amount paid for a kilogram was far less than a kilogram of maize. The value of food rises and incomes fail to keep pace with increasing prices, expenditures on food will continue to grow placing greater pressure on urban livelihoods to meet basic nutritional demands. If these trends continue, dangerous coping strategies such as borrowing and divesting assets will become more common and increasingly unsustainable over the short and long term.

Particular types of households - large households, elderly headed households and female-headed households – appear to be more vulnerable either through reduced purchasing power, weaker ability to cope with the current crisis, or through a lack of income. Vulnerability to food...
insecurity is the result of increases in food prices that surpass increases in income. In 2003, these households spent more of their income on maize as they saw their purchasing power decline.

Elderly households earn the least income per month. Female-headed households earn significantly less than males. Despite their larger labor force, large households (7+) do not earn the highest average monthly income. Rather, households of 4-6 members have the highest income. Among households earning an income, more than half have expenditures greater than their earned income for the month of August. Household deficits are highest among large households, elderly headed households and female headed households.

To meet the high costs of food and other expenditures, households adopt borrowing and/or asset divestment strategies. In the past three months, almost half of all households had a member borrow money in order to purchase food. The most significant correlation between household type and borrowing money for food is for household size. Divesting assets to purchase food is a strategy adopted by a fifth of all households. Similar to borrowing money, there is a significant correlation between increasing household size and higher rates of divesting assets.

Targeting households should be best accomplished by monitoring several key livelihood variables. Directing assistance to households that are livelihood insecure may have the greatest impact in terms of food security. The following report is a summary of key findings from the baseline. These findings identify variables that may be used as indicators of household food and livelihood security in future monitoring activities. They highlight the issues that generate the greatest food and livelihood insecurity among the general population and identify areas of greatest difference between household types.