

There is a more progressive class of smallholder, labeled *emergent farmers*, whose numbers are estimated at approximately 150,000 – 200,000. They are linked to the market by their use of credit and the value of their production is between 5 – 20 million Kwacha. They are considered less vulnerable than the purely subsistence population and better able to cope with food security issues.

## **SECTION 4: ANALYSIS OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES (SO) FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITIONAL RESULTS**

In this section we review each strategic objective and its associated activities from the perspective of increased food security, better health and improved nutrition. If we feel there are potential gaps in the program, as presented in the Concept Paper, we'll present those comments and then follow up with specific recommendations on what additional interventions the Mission might consider in its larger strategy to more fully emphasize the food security, health and nutrition themes.

### **4.1 Review of SO5: Increased Competitiveness of the Private Sector**

#### **4.1.1 Potential Gaps in Mission SO5 Program based on lessons-learned in food security, nutrition and health**

SO5 presents a comprehensive approach to agricultural and private sector development, which can significantly improve incomes, livelihoods and the economic well-being of rural households. Additionally, with integrated training and education of beneficiary households, food security and better health should result. This multidimensional strategy of 1) increasing smallholder access to markets through contract farming (outgrower schemes) and improved agricultural methods, 2) expanding small-medium enterprise (SME) processing and trade, 3) promoting community management of natural resources, and 4) improving the enabling environment, is very ambitious, challenging and costly. It will require substantial resources to implement effectively and a long-term commitment to achieve measurable results in economic growth and food security.

What has become clear in evaluating the agriculture sector in Zambia is that poverty is widespread; investment, productivity and growth is presently limited; potential is substantial; and constraints faced by the majority of smallholders are many. There is no silver bullet to transform the sector into an engine of growth. In IR5.1 contract farming looks promising as a growth approach to agriculture. The cotton sector presents a very successful model with 2,500 private distributors and over 100,000 smallholder cooperators. To a lesser extent, coffee, tobacco, horticulture, flowers, paprika/spices, potatoes and soybeans are emerging as smaller scale successes of the outgrower model. However, development of these sub-sectors and the integration of smallholders into the process is presently limited. USAID's involvement in this business model is "experimental" and there will be a long process of learning the business and developing meaningful interventions that can realistically contribute to economic growth. USAID's investments might support market information and research, policy and market analysis, smallholder technical assistance and training, or the facilitation of bank lending. It will be a complicated process of determining where USAID's comparative advantage lies in making a meaningful contribution to this long-term business process. The success of CLUSA's previous marketing work with smallholders provides a good start to build on.

The same caveat holds true for promoting improved agriculture among smallholders. Conservation farming, agroforestry, livestock development, diversified food and cash

cropping, small-scale irrigation, dairy, etc. are some of the many potential interventions to improve incomes and food sources for smallholder households. While these activities hold great potential for moving smallholders away from subsistence maize cropping, the process of introducing new and improved farming interventions is a labor-intensive and long-term training process that must be linked to local markets to be sustainable.

All of these comments relate to economic growth but don't necessarily address the second part of the development equation, which is *food security*. As previously mentioned throughout this report, a situation of chronic food insecurity exists among the majority of rural and urban households in Zambia. This is a national problem and the USAID/Zambia Concept Paper acknowledges this fact by weaving the theme of food security into its SOs. The challenge is how to successfully implement this theme within an economic growth strategic objective. Contract farming-outgrower schemes and improved agricultural methods linked to local markets will lead to better farm incomes and business growth, but improved food security will not necessarily be an outcome of these interventions. Food security must be explicitly built into any agricultural technical assistance or business intervention on the farm, if vulnerable households are to increase and diversify food crops and diets, and ultimately improve nutrition and family health.

IR5.2 Expanded participation of SMEs is the second part of the equation to raise rural incomes and promote economic growth. In many developing economies, SMEs are leading entities of economic growth and employment. However, just like in the previous examples, facilitating SME development is a labor-intensive and costly exercise that is not always successful. Training and capacity-building, viable business markets, sufficient access to credit, an enabling environment conducive to business growth, supportive associations etc. are a number of factors that must be in place for SME growth to succeed. Business development is difficult and USAID has achieved mixed results world-wide in its efforts to target this sector for change. However, if input and processing industries can be successfully developed in the agricultural sector, the potential will exist to spur income and economic growth and improve food security for both rural and urban communities.

IR5.3 Management of natural resources is another possibility for improving incomes and livelihoods of smallholder farm households, while preserving and enhancing the natural resource base. Zambia is particularly appropriate for this type of focus, given its wildlife, game parks and water resources that offer strong potential for tourism. However, transforming subsistence communities, which generally exploit natural resources to survive, into supportive protectors of the environment, is quite challenging and will require a difficult identification and promotion of sustainable livelihoods for beneficiary communities. Tourism, development of natural food and industrial crops, and wildlife preservation all have potential for local community employment and income growth that can provide alternatives to subsistence farming and rural poverty.

IR5.4 Improved enabling environment rounds out the economic growth strategy of SO5. Primary activities being contemplated include policy analysis and dialogue with the public and private sectors to reduce constraints to business and trade growth. Ultimately, *policy reform is critical to successful development of the private sector and transformation of the agricultural sector*. USAID already has a good program operating in policy analysis and the opportunity exists to build on this base of research to empower more stakeholders and policy reformers. In many ways, this IR might provide the most impact in achieving both economic growth and improved food security objectives. The lack of serious policy reform in Zambia is a major constraint to rejuvenation of the agricultural sector. The new government has placed a priority on *making agriculture the engine of growth, but until innovative policy*

reforms can be put in place and implemented to provide incentives to the private sector; open up the market environment; lay out a vision for long-term development; and place food security as a national priority; serious progress in growing the economy and reducing chronic poverty will not be realized.

Overall, the interventions proposed in IRs 5.1-4 offer a comprehensive range of activities that can contribute to both economic growth and food security. It is a serious and ambitious program that we support. However, to be successfully implemented, SO5 must be implemented in a comprehensive manner. Piecemeal implementation of the IR components will not make any measurable progress in either the economic growth or food security areas. The AFR Bureau will have to make a serious and long-term investment in this program to allow the Mission to move ahead in design and implementation in an aggressive and effective manner. Refer to Annex F for a continuing discussion of SO5 agricultural considerations.

#### **4.12 Recommendations for SO5 program taking into account GRZ and other donor activities**

##### **IR5.1 Increased Smallholder Access to Markets**

**Recommendation: Food security should be an explicit theme of projects developed under SO5.**

SO5 clearly emphasizes an economic growth development approach. A well-implemented core of programs under this objective, targeting the private sector, can contribute to food security as well. However, the choice of projects is important and food security must be more than just an after thought. It must be *explicit* in the design of the program. As a determinant of food availability, we recommend that **food diversification** – production of a variety of crops for consumption and/or sale -- be integrated into any new project designed under IR5.1 Whether outgrower schemes, conservation farming, or agricultural marketing, the promotion of technology and knowledge related to improved food diversification can complement the primary economic growth activities, while directly contributing to improved household diets, increased incomes and ultimately, food security. This recommendation is not meant to be onerous. It can be a basic extension activity in the community or farmer technical assistance that blends cash crop technology with varied food crop/animal production. It should be a small part of any project that ultimately increases farmer and household awareness of food security. In a country where chronic nutrition and health deficiencies exist, a concerted effort must be made to heighten the awareness in the rural farm population that food security is a desirable goal that will improve health, well-being and the productivity of the household. Income generation and expansion of cash crop production are proper goals for economically growing the rural sector, but by themselves will not necessarily improve food security. However, diversified farm production linked to markets can expose vulnerable households to a greater variety of foods, provide some hedging against the risks of poor weather, disease and pests, and expand the food choices of consumers in the marketplace. We think the beneficial returns to such an approach are important enough that they should be more fully emphasized in the Mission's strategy.

**Recommendation: Link production and nutrition/health activities to improve food security, health and nutrition of vulnerable groups.**

If implemented successfully, economic growth activities will improve smallholder incomes and generate secondary income effects in rural communities. At the same time, improvements in food security can take place as farm production diversifies and incomes grow. However, as pointed out in *Food Aid and Food Insecurity* (Webb and Gunther), economic and income growth does not necessarily equate with improved food security and

nutrition. These other objectives often must be specifically promoted if they are to be realized. In fact, a 1995 food security survey in Zambia (*Hambayi et al*) found increased food insecurity and child malnutrition among medium-scale farm households as compared to their smaller-scale counterparts! Given the uncertainty of “trickle down” impacts from economic growth activities, we recommend that any agricultural production and livelihood activities be firmly linked to household nutrition and health training through extension and technical assistance. These might take the form of Ministries of Agriculture and Health jointly promoting diversified farm production and improved nutrition with project households. PVO partners, such as CARE, CRS or WV can promote these same dual messages through USAID projects, C-SAFE or other PL480 programs.

**Recommendation:** To ensure that the linked program activities above are having a positive impact on household food security and nutrition, the performance indicator – *dietary diversity* – should be added to the IR5.1 list for monitoring and measurement. Dietary diversity – the number of individual foods or food groups consumed over a given period -- has been shown to be a good indicator of the food access dimension of household food security (*FANTA*). Research conducted among poor rural and urban households in ten countries throughout the world, including Kenya and Mozambique, found that changes in dietary diversity were positively associated with changes in household per capita consumption and caloric availability. Thus, dietary diversity can be used to identify the food insecure, monitor changes over time, as well as assess the impact of interventions on household food access. For Zambia with its chronic child malnutrition problem, this indicator would be particularly appropriate, because a varied diet is associated with improved birthweight and anthropometric status. Field experience has shown that dietary diversity data is relatively easy to collect, can be done at the household level, and takes only about ten minutes per respondent to obtain the necessary data.

**Recommendation:** To achieve better impact in programs, pool resources with other donors and jointly implement contract farming and improved agriculture activities. These economic growth interventions are labor-intensive, costly, long-term, and even experimental in some cases. USAID has a limited budget that constrains the number of interventions that it can undertake and the number of smallholder households that it can reach. Our discussions with other major donors (EC, Netherlands, DFID, GTZ) indicate that they too are pursuing similar economic growth and food security objectives, primarily through contract farming and improved agriculture (conservation farming etc.). No one donor has all of the necessary resources and ideas to adequately tackle the widespread income and food security issues facing vulnerable rural smallholders. However, working in tandem we think greater impact and results could be achieved. We recommend USAID explore opportunities for pooling resources with other donors in joint development programs or by targeting similar projects on the same farm communities.

**Recommendation:** Map out agricultural and environmental zones in the country to delineate comparative advantage in cropping, livestock and agribusiness. Rainfall patterns, temperatures, soil types, water resources and various other environmental and economic factors determine the best type of agricultural enterprises for a particular area of the country. It seems that better decision-making by USAID and other donors on where to make their development investments could be facilitated by mapping out the agricultural, economic and environmental zones of the country. For example, Southern Province receives minimal annual rainfall and is particularly vulnerable to drought every few years. Soil types are exhausted and require heavy fertilizer to produce adequate yields of food crops. In general, alternative to maize cropping, such as livestock and cotton would be more appropriate for this region. Milimo et al. have divided the country into four agroecosystem

zones representing different rainfall patterns and soil types, as well as levels of infrastructure development. There should be more detailed maps available in government ministries. USAID should access these. As the Mission expands its agriculture and private sector programs, mapping would provide for better decision-making on the types of projects that are appropriate for each region of the country.

**Recommendation: The Mission should continue its association with FEWSNET and the Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA) to stay abreast of early warning on drought developments.**

Zambia will continue to be impacted by recurrent drought in the future, especially during El Nino events. It's important for the Mission to continue its strong association with FEWSNET and the RCSA to keep abreast of weather developments that will impact Mission projects and vulnerable populations at large. We don't know what the production capacity of Zambia will be in the future nor the coping abilities of vulnerable urban and rural households to withstand the next shock to their food systems. However, early warning is very important for the Government and donors to minimize negative impacts on the fragile Zambian economy. The U.S., as a leading international food aid donor, will undoubtedly respond to any future disaster declarations by the Zambian government, so it's important that USAID/Zambia play a leading role in the early warning system.

#### **IR5.4 Improved Enabling Environment**

**Recommendation: Continue MSU Policy Work and Build Analytical Capacity of Key Public and Private Policy Implementors.**

The Concept Paper talks only briefly about the possible policy activities under this IR. Discussions with Mission staff indicate that policy reform is an important part of the future strategy. We would support those views and ask that they be more clearly articulated in the final strategic plan. Presently, there are a range of public and private sector stakeholders who are benefitting from the MSU work. We would recommend expanding that list to include new leaders and advocates for policy reform. As a long-term exit strategy, capacity-building among these stakeholders should be expanded. Training in research methodologies and techniques should be accompanied by actual participation in the new research. In the private sector, the Zambian National Farmers Union and its various associations should be encouraged to contract out for policy work to support their advocacy efforts, as well as develop the capacity to eventually conduct their own research. In the University there is an economic think tank that might have potential to undertake important research for both the public and private sectors as similar institutions in other African countries do today. USAID's future policy activities should continue to target these entities and jump start this capacity-building process. Finally, USAID should use its policy work to strongly encourage the government to adopt a national food security strategy that will reverse the upward movement in poverty and provide for all Zambians -- sustained access, availability and utilization of food.

### **4.2 Review of SO6: Improved Quality of Basic Education for More School-aged Children**

#### **4.2.1 Potential Gaps in Mission SO6 Program based on lessons-learned in food security, nutrition and health**

This SO has the opportunity of reaching a large number of vulnerable children. It also will be working with communities that are food insecure. The current Mission program includes a school health and nutrition activity, implemented in several districts in Eastern Province.

This intervention includes a nutritional component in the curriculum, water and sanitation provisions at schools as well as micronutrient supplements and deworming tablets. The project also is supporting training for those who will be implementing similar activities in Central Province. It is the intention of the Ministry of Education to scale up this activity nationwide with continued SO 6 support.

There is ongoing discussion with the Ministry of Education, the National Food and Nutrition Commission, as well as other partners about launching a school feeding program in response to the current food emergency. Reports indicate that 90 percent of pupils in the most affected 18 food emergency districts are attending school irregularly. Results of one study in the Southern Province where ten of the most affected districts are located indicated that older children were dropping out of school to assist families to look for food and that younger children were too tired and weak to walk to school. Some girls were dropping out of school to engage in prostitution to earn money for food or entering into early marriages. Studies from other countries also indicate that children who come to school hungry are lethargic, inattentive and perform less well on exams.

One proposal entitled, Sustaining School Attendance and Learning, identifies key issues that need to be resolved before going forward with a school feeding program. These include ration composition and type, beneficiary selection, procurement, costs and logistics. Given both the food emergency and the chronic food insecurity problems in a number of districts, a school feeding program, if managed well with strong involvement and assistance by the communities, may indeed be an important intervention to reach truly vulnerable children. (Please see the section on PL 480 for additional discussion and recommendations)

#### **4.22 Recommendations for SO6 program taking into account GRZ and other donor activities**

##### **IR 6.1 Improved Quality of Basic Education Delivery Systems**

**Recommendation:** Curriculum should include information about nutritious local foods and healthy dietary practices relevant to Zambia.

##### **IR 6.4 Mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on the Education System**

**Recommendation:** It is unclear if this IR is solely focused on mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on the education system, i.e. workforce, or will be supporting the use of the education system to target youth in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. The team recommends both. The education SO in collaboration with SO 9 should be using the education system to extend information to school age children and training to teachers about prevention of HIV/AIDS. The Ministry of education should also be taken actions to mitigate the impact of AIDS on its workforce.

The curriculum should be reviewed and revised to add livelihood and homemaking know-how for those children who may have lost important information about farming, marketing, house keeping, etc. due to the death of a parent. In order to increase food security, schools can use school gardens to both promote good farming practices, improve understanding of good dietary practices and supplement student diets.

#### **4.31 Potential Gaps in Mission SO7 Program based on lessons-learned in food security, nutrition and health**

This SO includes a very comprehensive package of approaches to improve child mortality and morbidity. However, there are a number of areas that could be expanded and given higher priority if nutritional status is to be improved.

#### **4.32 Recommendations for SO7 program taking into account GRZ and other donor activities**

##### **IR 7.1 Zambians empowered to take action for health**

**Recommendation: Community Based Growth Promotion (CBGP):** There are a number of ongoing CBGP programs that ZHIP, CARE and other groups are supporting in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. There are about 100 communities carrying out Community-Based Growth Promotion. Training materials and counseling cards developed with USAID support are being shared across programs. Given the very poor feeding habits of young children, growth promotion with personal counseling may be one approach to change caregiver behavior--both to support exclusive breastfeeding and proper complementary feeding, as well as to increase feeding for catch-up growth after illness.

**Recommendation:** The current programs should be evaluated to learn lessons and determine impact. If positive, USAID should work with other partners--CARE, UNICEF, the CBOH-- to roll out the program. In addition, a new element should be added to these activities -- the education and training of households in improved nutrition and health through diet diversity. This should be targeted on all rural households participating in USAID-funded smallholder agricultural improvement programs to ensure that farmer production decisions and income growth contribute to improving food security and nutritional status of the household. To monitor and measure results from these linked production:nutrition activities, the performance indicator, dietary diversity, was recommended for inclusion in IR 5.1.

##### **IR 7.2 Expanded Delivery of Key Health Interventions**

**Recommendation:** To ensure adequate nutrition in the first six months of life, decrease the risk of diarrhea, and strengthen immunity of young children, **promotion of exclusive breastfeeding** should be given increased attention and priority and move beyond its current connection to PMTCT. A multi-prong approach should be supported that would combine mass media along with community support groups and one-to-one counseling to promote exclusive breastfeeding across Zambia. Project results in Zambia with LINKAGES, as well as in Madagascar, Benin, Senegal and Ghana, indicate that exclusive breastfeeding can be increased with well-designed interventions.

**Recommendation:** Malaria is having a significant detrimental impact on child health, leading to increased anemia and malnutrition, particularly in very young children below 24 months of age. Continued support and expanded malaria prevention and control activities (bednets, rapid treatment and presumptive treatment of pregnant women) are critical to prevent and decrease the number and severity of malarial episodes in young children.

**Recommendation:** Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) is already linked to CBGP in CARE programs and appears to be working very well. It is important to support

the community component of IMCI. This linkage is critical in order to mobilize and educate the community on the importance of growth with good nutrition and also with the need to seek rapid medical treatment. Community IMCI and CBGP provide the clinic opportunities to bring outreach services, such as immunization and Vitamin A, to the communities on the weighing days. A facility-based IMCI program with a community component reinforces an integrated approach which addresses both prevention and effective treatment of the most common illnesses. This should result in less malnutrition.

**Recommendation: Micronutrient Programs: Vitamin A supplementation** should continue. Capsule distribution has become an integral part of the Ministry of Health's MCH program, as indicated by the substantial increases in coverage. More attention needs to be placed on Vitamin A supplementation for women as part of post partum services. Given the vulnerability of both mothers and young children and current eating practices, this intervention is critical. The planned evaluation with CDC should be very important in decisions about continued support to fortification. The GAIN proposal for **maize fortification with Vitamin A** offers a fantastic opportunity to fortify the staple--which may have more impact than the current sugar fortification program. If this proposal is funded, USAID should play an active role in getting the program underway. USAID's program across all sectors should be emphasizing dietary diversity and appreciation of foods rich in Vitamin A.

**Recommendation: Postpartem Vitamin A and Iron supplementation for Pregnant Women.** The Mission should look for approaches to expand coverage of these activities. A small evaluation should be carried out to understand better why these programs have such limited coverage. Based on the results, USAID with its partners should address constraints and continue to promote higher coverage. USAID should also closely follow research that is reviewing the association between high iron stores and PLWHA mortality.

#### **IR 7.3 Health Services Strengthened**

This is the time to increase the awareness of policy makers across sectors that malnutrition is a very serious problem in Zambia--that fifty percent of children are stunted and this will have irreversible consequences throughout their lives. This national problem will only get worse without immediate attention.

**Recommendation:** There is a need for a strategy across sectors to promote the importance of a more diversified diet. The Ministry of Agriculture should be assisting farmers with crop diversification and providing education to households about the nutritional value of certain crops. The Ministry of Education should be teaching about the need for diversification of crops and diet and the Ministry of Health should be reinforcing this effort with training materials and promotion through their own health services. A major mass media component should be launched. Tubers, fruits and ground nuts are foods that most Zambians can afford to grow or buy. Appreciation of these excellent sources of nutrients must be increased. The National Food and Nutrition Commission could play a coordination role in promoting this strategy.

#### **4.4 Review of SO8: Government Held More Accountable**

The Mission has a combined three-pronged effort to make government more accountable and effective: 1) building better laws, policy and regulations that enable reforms to take place; 2) ensuring that civil society has linkages to government policy reform; and 3) strengthening public sector watchdog institutions to play a larger role in holding government accountable.



Lack of transparency, responsiveness and inclusiveness in governance inhibits economic growth and agricultural productivity and contributes to food insecurity. In the Mission strategy governance interventions will provide integral support to the other SO teams in such areas as strengthening sector-specific civil society organizations, increasing the flow of sector-specific information (health and nutrition), and increasing government responsiveness across-the-board. All of these interventions can contribute to improving the effectiveness and accountability of both public and private sector organizations that address food security, nutrition and health issues.

Recommendations on SO8 governance issues are proposed under SOs 5, 6, 7, and 9 where we discuss the reformed roles of the Government's Ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture in promoting and implementing improved food security, education, nutrition and health interventions.

#### **4.5 Review of SO 9: Reduced Impact of HIV/AIDS Through Multi-sectoral Response**

##### **4.51 Potential Gaps in Mission SO9 Program based on lessons-learned in food security, nutrition and health**

This SO states clearly that it will "integrate activities to address short-term food insecurity of affected vulnerable groups." Below are several recommendations that can be used to explicitly illustrate strategic directions of the Mission to improve the nutritional and food availability for PLWHA, orphans and vulnerable children.

##### **4.52 Recommendations for SO9 program taking into account GRZ and other donor activities**

One recommended change is in the notion of short-term versus long-term food security. Most NGO groups working with PLWHA and/or orphans and vulnerable children stress the importance of empowering communities and households to help themselves--meaning that promotion of livelihood strategies has to be an integral part of these programs. If these strategies are successful then households and individuals should have sustainable means to access an adequate diet and this is a "long-term" process.

#### **IR 9.2 Improved Care and Support for People Living with HIV/AIDS**

**Nutrition for Positive Living** should be added to this IR. Given the importance of good nutrition for achieving a longer and healthier life, nutritional education and dietary advice should be part of all support services and education materials--included in VCT, PMTCT, youth and post test clubs, etc. Programs should include advice concerning what foods should be eaten in the face of diarrhea, weight loss, digestive problems, mouth sores, etc. Food should be made available if the PLWHA is not able to participate in income generating activities and has no other income support.

**Nutritional Care for AIDS patients:** Guidance for nutritional care and provision of food rations directly to PLWHA and their households should be an important component of any home-based care program. HEPS<sup>5</sup> is an excellent food commodity for AIDS patients.

<sup>5</sup> HEPS – High Energy Protein Supplement is a powder mixture of soy flour, corn meal, sugar and non-fat dry milk that is produced locally and used by the GRZ and PVOs in direct feeding programs for malnourished children and HIV/AIDS patients. It is a nutritious, high caloric food that can be easily made into porridge by adding water. It has become very popular because it boosts weight and energy levels and recipients like the taste.

### IR9.3 Increased Support to Selected Vulnerable Groups

Every SO in the Mission could contribute to the results of this SO--including SO5, 6 and 7. It will be important to assess the lessons learned from ongoing programs and the new C-Safe emergency program. Of particular importance will be the identification of effective and efficient targeting strategies and mechanisms in order to allocate resources to the most vulnerable children and households without stigmatizing orphans or households affected by HIV/AIDS. Programs also should combine livelihood activities for sustainable income generation along with targeted food assistance where needed. (Please see the discussion under PL 480 resources).

#### 4.6 Synergies among SOs to enhance food security and nutrition

##### *Advocacy for Nutrition and Diversification of Diet*

This is the time to increase the awareness of policy makers across sectors that malnutrition is a very serious problem in Zambia--that fifty percent of children are stunted, which will have irreversible consequences throughout their life. This national problem will only get worse without immediate attention.

There is a need for a strategy across sectors to promote the importance of a more diversified diet. The Ministry of Agriculture should be assisting farmers with crop diversification and providing education to households about the nutritional value of certain crops. The Ministry of Education should be teaching about the need for diversification of crops and diet and the Ministry of Health should be reinforcing this effort with training materials and promotion through their own health services. A major mass media component should be launched. The National Food and Nutrition Commission could play a coordination role in promoting this strategy.

These same synergies can be achieved through USAID project implementors. CARE, CRS and WV for example, have extensive experience in improved agriculture production and income strategies, as well as direct feeding, improved nutrition and health interventions. Through C-SAFE or other projects these implementors can play a dual role of linking food security with better health and nutrition.

In the area of HIV/AIDS, the Mission's strategy clearly has this theme woven through each of its Strategic Objectives. The mitigation/prevention strategies and feeding programs embedded in every project will maximize the beneficial returns of our investments across all sectors.

## **SECTION 5. ROLE OF FOOD AID IN MISSION STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Recommendation:** USAID should integrate available PL 480 resources into its relief and development programs in order to meet the extensive food security needs of vulnerable groups throughout Zambia. A combination of food and monetized resources would enable USAID to considerably expand the capacity of its DA portfolio to address both nutrition and food security issues. **There is a critical need in Zambia for a stronger and wider safety net to capture the most vulnerable groups living in food insecure households.** Food aid resources can be used both for safety net activities involving direct distribution of food and also to support longer-term agricultural and other livelihood activities that develop sustainable income flows.