

- 2) USAID/Zambia with USAID/Washington should support technical assistance for PROFILES;
- 3) NFNC should be involved in planning for the Vitamin A survey.
- 4) USAID should support capacity building of the NFNC.

## **SECTION 7. OPPORTUNITIES AND ON-GOING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MISSION STRATEGIC PLAN**

While various Mission staff are aware of the following activities, we thought it would be helpful to summarize these for general Mission review and follow up. We think these activities are relevant to the discussion of food security and will be important to the on-going development of the Mission's country strategy.

- 7.1 GRZ Agricultural Policy:** A new policy on development of the agricultural sector is presently before the parliament for review and adoption. If approved, this will provide the long-term roadmap of GRZ priorities around which donors can coordinate their future development programs. While GRZ plans and priorities have been discussed in the press and among donors, an approved long-term agricultural development policy for a sector that is now being touted as the future engine of economic growth, is an important first step in the agricultural planning and budgetary process of the new government.
- 7.2 Study on the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Agricultural Productivity:** This research, being conducted by the Agricultural Research Department of the Ministry of Agriculture with FAO funding, will be completed in March 2003. This should provide a first look at some of the documented impacts of HIV/AIDS on food production, agricultural labor productivity and household incomes in the rural sector. Charlotte Harland, USAID/Z consultant, would be the contact for further information on this research.
- 7.3 FAO/DFID Monthly Crop Assessments:** This series of monthly data (March-June) should provide a more precise picture of what the food situation is likely to be in 2003/04 and will be used by donors and the WFP to make some decisions on any future food aid.
- 7.4 2002/03 Crop Assessment:** Plans are for the Ministry of Agriculture with World Bank funding to conduct this assessment by June 2003. The resulting data should track with the FAO/DFID assessments and will provide the official GRZ figures on the level of this year's grain harvest. This will also provide an additional statistical basis for any future food aid programs.
- 7.5 VAC Assessment:** The January assessment was questioned for its statistical validity, given the limited number of households in the statistical sample and questions about the randomness of the sampling. FEWSNET has been informed of these questions and now has a chance to refine its sampling procedures this next go round. With the new harvest, the national food supply will be sufficient for several months and the number of at-risk populations should be significantly reduced to only a few areas of the country which experienced a poor harvest this year.
- 7.6 WFP Exit Strategy:** Since much of the country did receive good rainfall, there are expectations that food production will be substantially improved from last year. As food comes on to the market after the harvest in April, May and June, it will be very important for the GRZ and donors not to distribute any substantial food aid as this would undoubtedly depress producer prices and distort the market system. WFP should present donors with an exit strategy that fully reflects the

findings of the crop assessments. Only very limited and targeted food aid should be continued in areas of food deficit where vulnerable populations lack any financial means to procure food. USAID and other donors should monitor the crop assessments and advise WFP accordingly.

**7.7 Collaboration on project designs with other donors in contract farming and conservation farming:** Donors, such as DFID, EU and GTZ, are in the process of developing new development strategies. In our interviews with these groups, we found the common theme of food security being expressed. The most favored development interventions discussed were contract farming and conservation farming. Since the Mission is designing its new country strategy, continued collaboration with other donors who are exploring similar development approaches makes sense. We would encourage pooling efforts and resources with other donors to plan and implement joint food security and economic growth projects in the agricultural sector.

**7.8 Development and Implementation of National Nutrition Policy and Guidelines:** The National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC), a quasi-governmental organization that operates under the Ministry of Health in Zambia, has a draft National Nutrition Policy/Guidelines document pending approval with the Ministry of Health. Zambia currently does not have an official national policy on nutrition in place. USAID is encouraged to facilitate the approval of this new policy and to provide technical assistance to the NFNC in follow up and implementation.

## **SECTION 8. MISSION MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS FOR RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

### **SO 5 Increased Competitiveness of the Private Sector**

Recommendations for enhancing the Mission strategy deal with the "quality" of the program and should not entail "additional" management other than what has already been envisioned by the Mission. While we do not know how many project managers the SO5 team will be recommending for implementation of the new country strategic plan, it's evident that the proposed range and types of activities will be very labor intensive and require strong technical background and experience on the part of its SO5 managers to effectively manage. The overall manager of the SO5 team should be an experienced agricultural officer with strong private sector and natural resource management background. In reality, this program requires a range of specialties in agriculture, agribusiness, small-medium enterprise development, natural resource management and policy reform. The long-term team leader should be experienced in most of these areas as well as his/her staff.

The second important area of expertise is food security. As strongly discussed in this document, economic growth strategies do not necessarily contribute to food security unless there is targeting and focus on food security and better nutrition as objectives of the program. For this reason, staff should be experienced with the production, income and nutrition factors affecting vulnerable households and have the ability to effectively implement SO5 programs to achieve both economic growth and food security objectives. The Mission has indicated that it would like to have a long-term food security specialist to guide, design and implement the food security programs and activities. The Mission has also discussed its preference to have DCHA/FFP fund this position. Once the country strategic plan is eventually approved in USAID/W, DCHA/FFA and AFR would discuss and evaluate with the Mission such a request for assistance.