



**Letter from the Executive Director
Elizabeth Bara**

I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much. -Mother Teresa

As the situation in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate daily, all of us at ASAP remind ourselves to try to remain positive, solve problems as they arise and continue to do our very best.

With inflation at 1,700% each day brings new challenges. The most menial tasks can be a struggle, from procuring basic foodstuffs for rural workshops, ample cash for payroll or merely to access fuel to keep our projects operating. Nothing can be taken for granted and planning is the key to success. Our commitment remains strong.

There is no policy manual or rule book for this situation—only our unwavering commitment to help those less fortunate in this tremendous time of need. If ever there is a time when your contribution will be most valued, today is the day and now is the time. With your support, someday we will look back at these days and wonder how we endured—perhaps even laugh. We hope that you will help that day come to pass by making a contribution to our work today.

The World is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing. -Albert Einstein

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What's New at ASAP Africa

- Children at 20 schools will participate in Kufusa Mari Junior, ASAP's newest Village Savings and Lending (VS&L) .
- Over 6,000 families will gain skills in permaculture , health, nutritional gardening, home drip irrigation and HIV/AIDS awareness through a new HANDEI and Rural Family Health Initiative project funding.
- ASAP & Catholic Relief Services team up to address the needs of 42,000 Out of School Adolescents by 2009.
- 11,000 additional families will gain household security through ASAP's new VS&L project partnership with CARE.
- Munyaradzi Home Based Care Center will better meet the needs of orphans and those suffering from HIV/AIDS through new sustainable agriculture training.
- More people each day are visiting our website thanks to a Google Grant awarded to ASAP in Feb 2007.

Out-Of-School Adolescents Support Project

ASAP Africa has partnered with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and four other consortium partners on a new project to identify and address the needs of out of school adolescents in Zimbabwe affected by HIV/AIDS. The OSA-SP project will work to improve the economic, food security, health and psychosocial well being of 42,000 out-of-school children in Zimbabwe. Currently, more than 60% of the targeted adolescents have lost one or both parents to HIV and AIDS. Many youth are dropping out of school due to the economic hardships. Without parental guidance, these children lack understanding of HIV and AIDS, sexuality and need relevant vocational skills that will enable each one to earn a basic living.



Adolescents require basic skills to earn a living.

Munyaradzi Home Based Care Center is the Winner!

\$5,000 has been awarded to ASAP to further develop sustainable agricultural projects at Munyaradzi Home-based Care Center (MHBC). The MHBC coordinates local volunteer's efforts to meet the ever increasing needs of families that have fallen victim to HIV/AIDS. The vision of MHBC is to offer training classes and resources to the community so that through education they can become self sustaining and be able to fill their needs without outside funding. With the help of ASAP and NZAID in 2004, the centre now offers skills training in sewing, animal husbandry, agricultural and seed pressing at the center. As a recipient of the Schools for Rural Entrepreneurs grants competition hosted by Teach a Man to Fish, MHBC will now offer hands on skills training in raising poultry and rabbits.



HANDEI (means "Let's Go" in Shona)

The new \$25,000 grant to fund ASAP's HANDEI project will allow over 6,000 families to improve the lives of their families with relevant skills. One woman from each of 55 villages, a Cluster Facilitator (CF) selected by her peers, will attend training in HIV/AIDS awareness, growing medicinal herbs, nutritional gardening, perma-culture techniques, and psycho-social support. These skills and training will be carried back to the villages to benefit the entire community.



ASAP has 50 Drip irrigation kits funded to date.

Increasing the benefits of the HANDEI project, The Rural Family Health Initiative aims to provide home drip irrigation kits (HDIK) to the neediest families affected by HIV/AIDS and those caring for the largest numbers of orphans, who will be identified by the CFs. ASAP has received \$4,433 through the Global Giving website <http://www.globalgiving.com/pr/1500/proj1434a.html> and will provide each CF with training to install and maintain her kit which she will use to establish a demonstration garden for her village., gaining local acceptance for the technology.

A \$70 donation WILL change the life of one of the neediest

families in rural Africa today.

Savings Club Update

When ASAP's Village Savings & Lending (VS&L) project "ended" in 2003 in the Nyanga East area, the demand for the project was gaining momentum. Over 5,800 women were actively involved in saving clubs at that time and many more wanted to join. Without funding, ASAP had to withdraw from the area. In 2006, with a new grant from The McKnight Foundation, ASAP returned to the Nyanga East area and 5,640 new members attended training in the first year. The sustainability survey revealed that 85.5% of the savings club members that were active in 2003 were continuing to carry out savings club activities on their own.

In January 2007, Tom and Elizabeth (ASAP co-founders) attended a community meeting in the area to have a first hand look. "The most amazing thing" according to Elizabeth "was that 100% of the record books that I saw were kept up perfectly. These women did not miss a savings club meeting".

While visiting with the participants in the Kufusa Mari program, Tom and Elizabeth met a widowed grandmother who is taking care of her 11 orphaned grandchildren. It is not unusual for a grandmother to care for such a high number of orphans. Many grandmothers in Zimbabwe are left to care for their grandchildren and other children in their family after the loss of one or both parents. In the Shona culture families take in orphans regardless of the situation. This particular grandmother could not contain her gratitude as she explained "if it were not for Kufusa Mari Village Savings and Lending she could not survive!"

Originally developed as a rural project, the VS&L is also proving to be very well accepted and beneficial in urban areas. As a partner in the Joint Initiative Project to address urban vulnerability led by Mercy Corps, ASAP's Kufusa Mari project in the high density suburb of Sakubva, outside of Mutare, has over 600 members in less than 6 months, and the enthusiasm for the project is growing quickly.

In 2007 ASAP will adapt the VSL project to improve access to secondary schools, which less than half of the children of Zimbabwe currently are able to attend. Twenty schools will participate in the Kufusa Mari Junior project in 2007. By working through the teacher's and student's math clubs that are part of ASAP's Bridge the Gap rural math teacher training project, primary school children will learn to form savings clubs. We know from the phenomenal success of the Kufusa Mari project, that these children will gain skills in entrepreneurship and managing money.



Mr. Stan Rylander, Swedish Ambassador to Zimbabwe and Willie Dhladhara, ASAP's Country Director at the Project Launch

SIDA Funds New Project

The Swedish Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr. Stan Rylander, reiterated SIDA's commitment towards uplifting the livelihoods of women, especially those in rural areas, during a new project launch on March 7, 2007. Mr. Willie Dhladhara, ASAP's Zimbabwe Country Director and Joseph Miti, Microfinance Project Manager attended the ceremony held at Feri Training Centre in Masvingo.

In this new partnership with CARE, more than 11,000 additional households will benefit. ASAP is already reaching over 25,000 households, and we look forward to expanding the successful Village Savings and Lending Project.

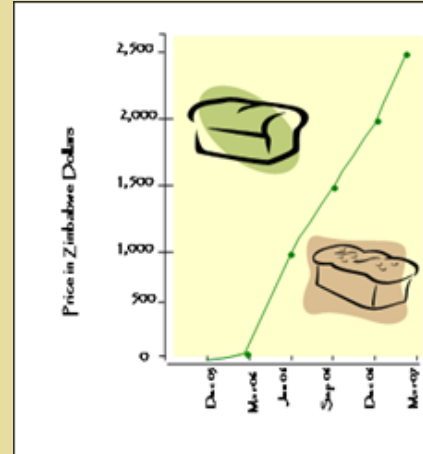


Executive Director Elizabeth Bara meets with Malawi's Minister of Education, Anna Kachikho

ASAP Africa's New Malawi Pilot Project

ASAP' intern, Stephanie Marienau, will spend 6 weeks in Malawi, after graduating from Vanderbilt University this May, to determine how best ASAP will replicate our Zimbabwe program, and to integrate our program with existing services being offered by other NGOs in Malawi. ASAP's CHILD program, encompasses agricultural training, educational support, microfinance clubs, and health education.

Our Daily Bread



Get Involved One Step at a TIME

As ASAP Africa's programs continue to grow in Zimbabwe and expand to Malawi, we are working to engage communities and schools here in the United States and to raise awareness of the problems and challenges of life in rural Africa. This quarter has proven to be quite exciting for ASAP as we increase our activity in Georgia communities. ASAP has set up booths and presented our power point presentation in several events including "The Gathering" hosted by Let Us Make Man, Mission's for Africa Celebration hosted by International Christian Fellowship Ministries, and The Study Hall's International Festival. It is such a thrill to be surrounded by others with an enthusiasm for work in Africa much like ourselves.

Our US expansion is made easier by our Literacy project partnership with the Peachtree City Rotary Club. The highly visible active participation from the Fayette Daybreak, Fayetteville, and the Borrowdale Brooke Rotary Club in Zimbabwe all have helped to create awareness of ASAP's work.

There are many ways to become a part of ASAP Africa. Please invite us to make a presentation at your school, church or club or request a CD showcasing our work. We have a growing volunteer opportunity list and encourage anyone with a heart for service and mind to make a global impact to sign up or request ASAP to take part in your event and help ASAP improve lives.

Remember, ASAP is seeking in-kind contributions of school supplies to further assist the 110 schools actively involved in ASAP's Bridge the Gap project. Imagine, many children do not even have a pen or pencil! ASAP believes that education is the foundation to eliminating poverty and we need your help in providing the much needed resources. If you or anyone you know would like to help please e-mail shannondunn@asapafrika.org or call 770-632-7451. Everyone can make a difference...it takes one step at a time!



The Study Hall's International Festival

A Self-Help Assistance Program

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Mission
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in Southern Africa

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