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SECTOR FILE
ZAMBIA - NUTRITION - General

The World Bank/IFC/MIGA
O F F I C E M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: August 31, 1993 01:49pm

TO: Barry Riley

(BARRY RILEY)

FROM: Alan Berg, PHN

(ALAN BERG)

EXT.: 33433

SUBJECT: Zambia: Towards Improved Food Security

Congratulations on an impressive report -- it is thorough, analytical and more cognizant of nutrition factors than is usually the case. Of particular merit is:

- the attention given to alternate food crops and the need for crop diversification and a shift in agricultural research priorities;
 - the attention given to the role of wild foods, hunting and fishing, usually overlooked in such analyses;
 - the focus on on-farm storage;
 - the careful analysis of food production problems faced by female headed households; and
 - problems associated with over dependence on cassava in Luapula and large parts of the Northern Provinces.
- The analysis of undernutrition among young children is also carefully done and well presented.

Given Rae Galloway's extensive comments, I would offer only two minor suggestions for changes/addition:

1. In Chart 2 (p.16), the term "estimated caloric demand: for maize may be confusing since the word "demand" in such a context usually refers to effective demand -- projections of how much will be purchased. The calculation made (the better term may be "caloric need"), however, is important. It would be interesting to see effective demand included as well on the chart.

2. The feeding problems identified in para 92 suggest that consideration might be given to the use of amylase-rich or fermented foods, which are commonly used or being tried in some neighboring countries.

I look forward to seeing the final version.

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