

3/22/97 Kuwandzana
Polyclinic, Harare

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

(Remarks at the Kuwadzana Polyclinic--Harare--03/22/97)

Thank you very much for that comprehensive description of all of the various elements that make up the family planning work that is done here in Zimbabwe. After listening to each of you describe the various services and how they are connected with one another, it is clear to me why Zimbabwe is a world leader in family planning.

Because of the commitment of your government and your people, and dedicated doctors and nurses such as yourselves, fertility rates have been falling, contraceptive use is high, infant mortality rates have decreased, and healthier women are having healthier babies, in part because of your emphasis on spacing of babies and the work you have done to try to make sure that every baby born is taken care of. I am proud that the United States has supported Zimbabwe in its cutting-edge effort to educate women about their health and family planning, and I'm very pleased to announce today that we will build on that commitment.

The United States, through the United States Agency for International Development, will provide \$4.9 million for Zimbabwe's family planning efforts this year. Most of this support will be used to purchase contraceptives for Zimbabwe's National Family Planning Council. But I am pleased that nearly \$1 million will go toward helping the private sector expand its role in helping to promote family planning, something that you have been working hard on here in Zimbabwe. The more the private sector is involved, the easier it will be for Zimbabwe to sustain and build on its record of achievement.

As a leader in family planning, Zimbabwe is serving as a model, not just for Africa, but for the world, and we in the United States are pleased to work with you in this important effort, and we congratulate you on the work that you have done already and on your plans for the future. We're pleased that we could be of some assistance to you in pursuing these plans that you have made on behalf of family planning in your country.