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Emergency Appeal Operations Update Zimbabwe: Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Appeal MDRZW011	Operations Update no. 6
Date of issue: 17 March 2017	Timeframe covered by this update: 25 April 2016 – March 2017
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Jamie LeSueur, Operations Manager, Zimbabwe, IFRC, Southern Africa	Point of contact: Maxwell Phiri, Secretary General, ZRCS
Operation start date: September 2015	Expected timeframe: 18 months (revised from 15 months)
Overall operation budget: CHF 5,181,321 (original budget CHF 832,900)	
Number of people affected: 2.8 million (4.1 million expected at peak)	Number of people to be assisted: 38,330 (7,666 HH) increased from 10,830 (2,166HH)
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Zimbabwe Red Cross Society Headquarters; Provincial Branches of Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central, Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, Midlands, Manicaland, and Masvingo (10 full time, 21 support staff, 420 volunteers), which cover eight districts	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The Danish Red Cross (DRC/World Bank), Finnish Red Cross, British Red Cross, American Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross, and Norwegian Red Cross. IFRC and ICRC are also present in country giving technical support to the NS.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Zimbabwe, WFP, Save the Children, Oxfam, Trocaire, ENSURE, Caritas, SNV, Dan Church Aid (DCA), CAFOD, HEA, Care International, Amalima, Lead Trust, and UMCOR.	

Appeal History:

- On 16 September 2015, the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS), with support from the IFRC, launched an Emergency Appeal to support 2,166 households (10,830 beneficiaries) with immediate humanitarian assistance to address the effects of drought in two districts—Mudzi and Muzarabani. The support was provided through a mobile cash transfer and targeted to help households meet their immediate food needs. The support also included safe water provision through borehole rehabilitation and promotion of safe hygiene practices as well as livelihoods strengthening through agricultural inputs provision and training of lead farmers.



Photo: Courtesy ZRCS

- At the launch of the Appeal, the ZRCS received funds through the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) amounting to 83,000 Swiss francs to support the National Society start-up operations and meet the immediate needs of affected people.

- The Government of Zimbabwe on the 2nd of February 2016 declared a state of National Disaster and a Domestic and International Appeal for Assistance was launched to seek USD \$1.5 billion to support Government response operations.
- [Operations Update 1](#) was issued on 29 September 2015
- [Operations Update 2](#) was issued on 15 October 2015
- [Operations Update 3](#) was issued on 24 March 2016 requesting for a 4-month extension of the Emergency Appeal to allow completion of the remaining activities and also revise the Appeal, scaling up, to contribute to addressing the deteriorating food situation in the country
- [The Revised Emergency Appeal](#) was issued on 27 April 2016, for **5,181,321** Swiss francs targeting 38,330 beneficiaries (7,666HH) in 8 districts of Zimbabwe until December 2016.
- The Operation's [6 Month Update](#) was issued on 9 May 2016.
- The Operation's [12 Month Update](#) was issued on 4 October 2016.

This Operations Update request 2-month operation extension – **until 31 May 2017**. The EA extension seeks to implement livelihoods support activities through seeds provision to ensure good crop performance for the second harvest in July 2017, WASH and cash transfer activities as well as undertake a final evaluation.

IFRC, on behalf of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, would like to thank all its partners and appeal to all distinguished donors to support the ongoing EA to enable ZRCS to provide much needed assistance to the most vulnerable, drought-affected communities.

B. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Zimbabwe is currently facing one of the most severe lean seasons in the last few decades due to the impacts of last season's El Niño induced drought – a second consecutive drought year for the country. This shock has been compounded by increasing macroeconomic challenges that the country is facing this year and Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes have been forecasted between January and March 2017¹. The national cereal deficit for the 2016-17 consumption year is estimated at about 1.6 million MT, following a second consecutive year of poor rainfall and drought conditions that resulted in maize production level that is only 50 percent of the five-year average². At the peak of the 2017 lean season, 4.1 million people were estimated to be food-insecure. The factors which have exacerbated Zimbabwe's food security situation too "serious" according to the 2016 Global Hunger Index are manifold. Widespread poverty, HIV/AIDS, limited employment opportunities, liquidity challenges, recurrent climate-induced shocks and economic instability all contribute to limiting adequate access to food. Low-productivity agricultural practices and lack of access to markets are also affecting the food security of the vast majority of rural Zimbabweans, whose livelihoods depend on own production. Undernutrition rates are high, especially in rural districts where diets lack diversity – maize being the main staple – and are poor in essential nutrients.

Currently, below average livelihood options are being experienced across the country due to a poor 2015-16, harvest and prevailing liquidity challenges, among other factors. Typical livelihood options include agricultural and nonagricultural casual labor, self-employment, petty trade, remittances, and vegetable production and sales, and livestock sales. Common coping options include asset disposal, increased sale and consumption of wildlife products, labor migration, informal mining especially gold panning, sharing of food rations, and consumption-based strategies³. The current flooding has resulted in a double shock to the already vulnerable communities due to drought.

While the immediate needs of households is food assistance, ZRCS proposed that any food assistance provided should be complemented by livelihoods recovery interventions such as seed support, training in climate-smart agriculture practices, and water and sanitation activities.

Coordination and partnerships

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent actors' in-country

¹ FEWSNET-Zimbabwe Food Security Outlook October 2016-May 2017.

² ibid

³ ibid

The Finnish, Norwegian and the Danish Red Cross Societies have an in-country presence in Zimbabwe and are supporting health, disaster management and organisational development programmes. ZRCS also receives bilateral support from the American and the British Red Cross Societies, whom do not have physical representation in the country. ZRCS and its PNSs maintain coordination through quarterly Movement Coordination Meetings (MCM) and emergency steering committee meetings as, and when, required. The IFRC has also maintained its presence through an Operations Manager who is working closely with ZRCS in implementing the activities of the operation.

Movement Coordination

ZRCS is working closely with in-country partners to ensure coordinated implementation of the emergency operation. Updates and plans are regularly shared with Movement partners and PNSs were consulted in the development of this EA. The ZRCS and delegates from the Danish Red Cross (DRC) have conducted joint field monitoring missions and witnessed cash transfers as well as seed distributions in Muzarabani and Kariba Districts where bilateral support is being provided. The IFRC Operations Manager has also conducted joint field monitoring with the ZRCS. The IFRC Southern Africa Head of Cluster as well as the Deputy Regional Head visited Mudzi district and appreciated the cash transfer operation being conducted by ZRCS in the districts.

Overview of non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors in-country

ZRCS has been actively participating in a number of coordination platforms with in-country humanitarian and development partners, including the Food Assistance Working Group (FAWG), FAWG Cash Sub Working Group (CSWG), Agriculture and Food Security Sector Working Group (AFSSWG), WASH Working Group. These platforms allow humanitarian partners to share progress regarding their agency's interventions and coordinate response action more effectively.

Operational implementation

Through this Revised Appeal, the ZRCS is targeting 38,300 food insecure people (7,666 HH) in 8 districts--Mudzi, Muzarabani, Binga, Kariba, Gwanda, Gweru, Chipinge, and Mwenezi. However the Appeal received support of a total amount of 1,899.019 (37%) as such ZRCS has only been able to cover 4 districts out of the 8 namely Binga, Chipinge, Mudzi and Mwenezi coming to a total number of 3,822 households being supported through direct cash transfers under the IFRC support. ZRCS has prioritised 2 districts Lower Gweru and Gwanda which will benefit from the WASH activities. ZRCS is also assisting 2,200 households in Kariba and Muzarabani through the bilateral support from Danish Red Cross making the total districts being covered by the Appeal. It is worth noting that the statistics presented in the report are based on the support that ZRCS received against the actual budget. As such ZRCS did not achieve the total number of targeted districts with the cash transfer as well as the livelihoods support and also with regards to some activities, priority was given to the most critical activities that would ensure that people are taken through the difficult drought period.

Areas common to all sectors (assessments, monitoring and evaluation)			
Outcome 1: Increased ZRCS visibility and information sharing with communities	Outputs		% of achievement
	Output 1.1: Improved planning, reporting and implementation		41%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
1.1.1 Media tours	X		90%
1.1.2 Procurement of visibility materials (t-shirts, hats and Bibs)		X	25%
1.1.3 Zimbabweans for Zimbabwe campaign		X	10%
To ensure visibility of the EA, the ZRCS communications department has made efforts in profiling the support that ZRCS is providing to the targeted communities. To date ZRCS cash transfer programme has been published in local newspapers, on the ZRCS website and other social media platforms. Some of the Media tours that have been conducted to date include, one during the visit by the Danish Red Cross Secretary			

General, a visit with the communications team from the Netherlands Red Cross, the BRC Head of International Affairs during the IFRC Secretary General's visit, during the Canadian Red Cross Society communication delegate visit as well as during the Other various cash disbursements under the bilateral support from the DRC has produced visibility material for the volunteers which include

T-shirts, hats, and bibs.

Outcome 2: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation	Outputs		% of achievement
		<p>Output 2.1: Monitoring information informs revisions of plan of action where appropriate.</p> <p>Output 2.2: The findings of evaluations lead to adjustments in future planning</p>	49%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
2.1.1 Branch capacity assessments in the targeted districts.		X	0%
2.1.2 Training of 20 volunteers on ODK (10 in each district	X		75%
2.1.3 Monthly post cash distribution monitoring by volunteers	X		57.14%
2.1.4 Beneficiary survey on CTP utilization and satisfaction		X	25%
2.1.5 Pre-assessments in targeted districts (for markets and livelihoods)	X		100%
2.1.6 HQ Monitoring	X		80%
2.2.1 Inception training	X		100%
2.2.2 Operation review workshop	X		0%
2.2.3 End of implementation evaluation	X		0%
<p>An inception workshop was conducted and attended by provincial managers, district officers and head office staff. The meeting harmonised the implementers' understanding of the Emergency Appeal's outcomes and outputs and activities. To date a total number of 60 volunteers (10 in each of the 6 districts) have received training in ODK for the purposes of data collection during registration and post distribution monitoring. These volunteers have been useful in the registration process as well as in the post distribution monitoring process. To date, 8 PDMs have been conducted in Kariba, Muzarabani, and in Mudzi. HQ monitoring is being done continuously during the cash transfers processes.</p>			

Water, Health, and Hygiene Promotion

Outcome 3: Safe access to water for human consumption and livelihoods	Outputs		% of achievement
		<p>Output 3.1: Improved access to safe drinking water for human and livestock</p> <p>Output 3.2 Health and Hygiene promotion are carried out population</p>	57%
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	

3.1.1 Water point assessment	X		100%
3.1.2 Selection of water points for rehabilitation	X		100%
3.1.3 Rehabilitation of 55 water points		X	61.81%
3.1.4 Construction of 55 water troughs and aprons		X	21.81%
3.1.1 Training and establishment of 55 water point committees in borehole maintenance and monitoring and hygiene		X	61.81%
3.2.1 100 volunteers trained in Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE or PHAST methodology)		X	36%
3.2.2 Community education on health and hygiene promotion, HIV prevention, Gender Based Violence and nutrition trainings	X		36%
3.2.3 Awareness sessions in schools, public gatherings and household visits	X		36%
<p>A total number of 34 water points were rehabilitated in Mudzi and Muzarabani. Of the rehabilitated points 29 were in Mudzi and 5 in Muzarabani. Water troughs were also constructed at the rehabilitated sites. 29 water points against a target of 25 have been repaired and rehabilitated in Mudzi district. A total number of 203 people (171 males and 32 females) from 29 water point committees received the water point committee training in Mudzi whilst 35 were trained in Muzarabani.</p> <p>Participatory health and hygiene (PHHE) training was also conducted, which saw 23 volunteers trained in hygiene promotion and nutrition. Trained volunteers are carrying out awareness sessions and are reaching an estimated 2,300 people per month. In Muzarabani 13 volunteers were trained (9 females and 4 males) by the Ministry of Health staff.</p> <p>Water point assessments in Gwanda and Lower Gweru have been conducted and the initial procurement process has been done. ZRCS is currently waiting for approval of the procurement documentation that has been submitted to the IFRC which will enable it to issue a contract to the supplier of spare parts as well as start the rehabilitation process. In Muzarabani water point assessments have been conducted and the ZRCS is currently engaged in the procurement process of the borehole spares parts.</p>			

Food Security, Nutrition, and Livelihoods			
Outcome 4: Increased food security and dietary diversity for 7,666 households (38,330 beneficiaries) through better farming and access to better nutrition	Outputs		% of achievement
		Output 4.1: Improved food consumption for food insecure households through a Mobile cash transfer Output 4.2: Increased diversified farming and improved knowledge in climate smart agriculture and post-harvesting of grain	
Activities	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
4.1.1 Designing of beneficiary selection tools.	X		100%
4.1.2 Stakeholder engagement and notification	X		100%
4.1.3 Beneficiary selection and verification	X		78%
4.1.4 Malnutrition screening and referrals of the severely malnourished people to health centres		X	0%

4.1.5 Preparation of monthly Mobile cash transfer and uploading of plan	X		83%
4.1.6 Beneficiary training and sensitization on mobile cash transfers	X		75%
4.1.7 Volunteers trained in beneficiary selection. managing of mobile cash transfers	X		75%
4.1.8 Engaging of local service providers for cash distribution	X		100%
4.1.9 Community notification of distribution date and time	X		83%
4.1.10 Distribution of cash to 2,166HH for 14 months	X		71%
4.1.11 Distribution of cash to 5,500HH for 9 months		X	44%
4.1.12 Post distribution monitoring, reporting and feedback to partners	X		57.14%
4.2.1 Training of 420 lead farmers in crop production, seed preservation, food processing and preservation, market linkage / marketing and costings for income generation (Training on traditional farming systems also to be taken into consideration for good high yielding harvests)		X	9.52%
4.2.2 Identification of short season varieties that are tolerant to drought and traditional varieties that are cheaper and locally available	X		100%
4.2.3 Post-harvest technology and nutrition training for improved dietary intake at household level targeting 420 lead farmers		X	9.52%
4.2.4 Cascading of training to 7666 households by lead farmers.	X		9.52%
4.2.5 Distribution of drought resistant vegetable seeds to 7666 households	X		64.2%
4.2.6 Monitor good practices by households in post-harvest handling	X		55%

As has been noted earlier on in the report the Appeal was funded up to 37% under the IFRC support and two districts were supported through a bilateral agreement with the DRC. This means that the targets for the cash transfers were not reached. The plan was to conduct 14 distributions for the already existing two districts and 9 for the new districts. However, under the new phase due to limited funding, two districts did not receive cash transfer support and the planned months were reduced by 3 months. However, in the districts that received support Mudzi and Muzarabani have been supported for 10 months and the new districts (Kariba, Mwenezi and Chipinge) were supported for 4 months Binga being an exception as it only got funding for 3 months. The cash transfer value per individual was pegged at USD 7 per individual and was pegged at 5 people per household. Highlights from the post distribution monitoring indicated that the money received by the beneficiaries was put to good use as families mainly spent the money on food though a few families spent it on school fees. Generally, cash was the preferred transfer modality as households felt that it gave them the freedom to choose what to purchase depending on their needs.

This operation adopted the lead farmer approach, where ZRCS planned to train 420 lead farmers. Each lead farmer will then be responsible for cascading knowledge and skills to an average of 20 households. To date 40 lead farmers (26 males and 14 females) have been trained in Muzarabani district. Cascading of the new acquired knowledge by the lead farmers is ongoing. Due to prioritization of received funds training in other districts were not conducted.

To ensure increased food production at household level, the operation provided drought resistant seeds to the households. A total of 4922 households in Mudzi, Chipinge, Mwenezi, Muzarabani and Kariba received 10kgs of small grain seeds as support for the 2015/17 agricultural season.

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.
