

Emergency appeal operation update

Zimbabwe: Food Insecurity

Emergency Appeal	Operation n° MDRZW011;
Operations Update No. 2 Date of issue: 15 October 2015	Date of disaster: August 2015
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Naemi Heita, Disaster Risk Management Coordinator, IFRC, Southern Africa	Point of contact (name and title): Maxwell Phiri, Secretary General
Operation start date: 14 September 2015	Expected timeframe: 6 months
Overall operation budget: CHF 832,900	Initial DREF allocated: CHF 83,000
Number of people affected: 1.5 million	Number of people to be assisted: 10,830 (2,166 Households)
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Zimbabwe Red Cross Society Head and 2 Provincial Branches of Mashonaland East, Mashonaland Central, (5 fulltime , 9 Support staff, 60 volunteers)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant): The Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, British Red Cross, American 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, DCA, Care International, Amalima, Lead Trust.	

Appeal History:

- This [Emergency Appeal](#) was launched on 16 September 2015 for CHF 832,900 Swiss francs to support the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) to reach 10,830 people with interventions on the sectors of water, health hygiene promotion, food security, nutrition, and livelihoods (carried out through cash distributions).
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): CHF 83,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to start up the operations by meeting immediate needs of affected people.
- [Operations update no. 1](#) was issued on 29 September giving information regarding the first 15 days of the operation since the launch.
- This update provides information on the operation in the first 30 days since the launch of the appeal.
- IFRC, on behalf of Zimbabwe Red Cross would like appeal all distinguished donors to support the Appeal to enable Zimbabwe Red Cross provide the needed support to the drought affected communities.

Summary:

A slow onset of the rainy season was followed by severe flooding that destroyed crops. This situation was followed, and exacerbated, by a long dry spell, resulting in a crop yield below the 5 year average.

Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZIMVAC) report estimated 16% of Zimbabwe's rural population are food insecure and 1,490,024 people will be in need of food assistance at the peak of the hunger period. Coping mechanisms are severely strained, and social safety-net interventions by the Government and partners are limited.

The ZIMVAC report highlights the need to scale-up nutrition-specific interventions to promote crop production. Malnutrition remains a challenge especially in children under five. The challenge of food insecurity is exacerbated by the continued poor storage of crops, and hence there is a continued need for promotion of improved food storage. While the immediate needs of these households is food assistance, ZRCS is working to ensure 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.

Emergency Appeal Interventions: the ZRCS will assist 10,860 people that are in a severe food insecurity situation in Mudzi, and Muzarabani Districts through:

- Provision of cash assistance via a mobile cash transfer model to 2,166 households for purchase of food requirements during the lean period from November 2015 to March 2016. As a result of market surveys it has been decided that each household will receive USD 48 per month which is enough to purchase the basic food basket.
- Use of a lead farmer approach, where 100 lead farmers will be selected and trained. Each lead farmer will be responsible for cascading knowledge and skills to an average of 20 households. The skills transferred will focus on livelihoods with an emphasis on climate change adaptation through climate smart agricultural practices. All planned trainings will integrate information on nutrition and health promotion.
- Twenty boreholes will also be rehabilitated in the Mudzi district, and 5 in Muzarabani. As part of the approach, water point committees will be trained to maintain the boreholes and ensure that the water points are managed in a sustainable manner. Participatory health and hygiene (PHHE) through 60 volunteers in both target districts will also be conducted. Trained volunteers will be responsible for hygiene promotion, nutrition, education in the target districts as well as household visits to educate the community on good hygiene practices.
- The operation also proposes to train 20 volunteers in mobile data collection using Open Data Kit (ODK) for the purposes of monitoring the operation along with Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) assessments that will be conducted to assess the capacity of ZRCS branches in the targeted districts and work on areas of improvement.

Coordination and partnerships

The ZRCS conducted a stakeholder meeting in Mudzi district on 2 October 2015. The meeting was attended by various governments department (Social services department, District development fund, Livestock Production Department, Department of Agricultural, Technical and Extension Services, Drought Relief Committee), the local leaders and local authority, the ZRCS Secretary General, Operations Manager, WATSAN coordinator and food security officer making a total number of 31 participants. The aim of the meeting was for the ZRCS to give an update of the operation to the district stakeholders, discuss selection criteria, and decide on target wards for the mobile cash transfer and for the WATSAN activities. Updates on the food insecurity, livestock and the water and sanitation situation were given by the relevant government departments.

With regards to food insecurity in the district, recent updates indicate a deficiency of 6,912 MT with the most affected wards being ward 4 (643MT), ward 10 (679MT), ward 11 (606MT) and ward 14 (668MT). In terms of response the Government through the Social Services Department is conducting a harmonized cash transfer to some of the affected households in all the wards. Their target was mainly the food poor and labour constrained households. The remaining vulnerable groups will be targeted by ZRCS.

According to the District Development Fund (DDF), the water situation in the district remains dire with 233 out of 632 boreholes (36.9%) requiring mechanical rehabilitation and 116 requiring flushing. A total number of 22 boreholes were not working whilst 50 water points were dry. It was thus proposed that wards 3 and 12 be targeted for rehabilitation by the ZRCS. These two wards were selected on the basis that they had larger populations generally and also had the highest number of water points that required rehabilitation with ward 3 having 22 and ward 12 having 25 requiring support. ZRCS has engaged the DDF on the rehabilitation and ZRCS will conduct a water point assessment from the 14 to the 15 October in the two proposed wards to assess the condition of targeted water points and confirm material requirement. A follow-up meeting with the DDF will be held to agree on working modalities.

The livestock (especially cattle) situation in the district was reported to be bad mainly due to lack of adequate water with some people travelling up to 18 km to get water for the livestock and also lack of grazing land. However small livestock like indigenous chicken and goats were reported to be a better option of livelihood support instead of the vegetable seed support as they gave a better chance for asset creation and better incomes

at household level. It was thus recommended during the meeting that the operation consider this kind of support for the targeted households. ZRCS will discuss this with IFRC for possible revisions to plan.

ZRCS is engaging with the Danish Red Cross for possible bilateral support for Muzarabani region and a visit to the field to assess the situation is being conducted on the 13 October 2015. ZRCS will also attend a Food working group that is being hosted by the WFP on the 15 October to share updates of the operation and to get the food insecurity updates as well as the updates from other implementing partners.

Zimbabwe is currently experiencing a heat wave in most parts of the country as alerted by the Meteorological department and the country has been advised to be cautious in their activities.

Operational implementation

Overview

CHF 83,000 has been released from DREF funds to help kick start the operation while funding is being raised to fully address the needs as outlined in the emergency appeal. Southern Africa Regional Office has been providing technical support to ZRCS team. Currently the operation is supported by the IFRC Southern Africa Regional Office's Disaster Management Delegate while awaiting the recruitment of the operation manager to take over. The Operations Manager will have cash transfer experience and posting is currently underway.

The ZRCS conducted a staff inception meeting with representatives of all the provinces from the 7 - 8 October 2015 to ensure that the EA operation reporting requirements and timelines are agreed upon, specifically in Mudzi. The IFRC conducted a monitoring visit to the ZRCS during the inception meeting and made a presentation on EA operations requirements. Prioritization of the Emergency Plan of Action activities based on the available funding was discussed, as was the need to review the appeal to discuss the suggested livelihood interventions.

Further detailed analysis on output achievements to be monitored over the next few weeks.

Planned interventions		
Water, Health and Hygiene promotion		
Outcome 1: Safe access to water for human consumption and livelihoods		
Output	Activities planned	progress
Output 1.1 Improved access to safe drinking water for human and livestock	Water point assessment	0%
	Selection of water points for rehabilitation	100%
	Rehabilitation of 25 water points	0%
	Construction of 25 water troughs	0%
	Training and establishment of 25 water point committees in borehole maintenance and monitoring and hygiene	0%
Output 1.2 Health and Hygiene promotion are carried out to target population	60 Volunteers trained in Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE or PHAST methodology)	0%
	Community education on health and hygiene promotion, HIV prevention, Gender Based Violence and nutrition training.	0%
	Awareness sessions in schools, public gatherings and household visits	0%
Food security, Nutrition and Livelihoods		
Outcome 2: Increased food security and dietary diversity at for 2,166 households (10,831 beneficiaries) better farming and access to better nutrition		
Output 2.1: Improved food consumption in food insecure households through a mobile cash transfer programme for five months	Designing of beneficiary selection tools.	100%
	Stakeholder engagement and notification	100%
	Beneficiary selection and verification	0%
	Malnutrition screening and referrals of the severely	0%

	malnourished people to health centres	
	Preparation of monthly Mobile cash transfer and uploading of plan	0%
	Beneficiary training and sensitization on mobile cash transfers	0%
	Volunteers trained in beneficiary selection. managing of mobile cash transfers	0%
	Engaging of local service providers for cash distribution	0%
	Community notification of distribution date and time	0%
	Distribution of cash amounting to USD 48 to 2,166 households for 5 months	0%
	Post distribution monitoring, reporting and feedback to partners	0%
Output 2.2: Increased diversified farming and improved knowledge in climate smart agriculture and post-harvesting of grain	Training of 100 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)	0%
	Identification of short season varieties that are tolerant to drought and traditional varieties that are cheaper and locally available	0%
	Post-harvest technology and nutrition training for improved dietary intake at household level targeting 100 lead farmers	0%
	Cascading of training to 2166 households by lead farmers.	0%
	Distribution of drought resistant vegetable seeds to 2166 households	0%
	Monitor good practices by households in post-harvest handling	0%
Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors		
Outcome 3: Increased ZRCS Visibility and information sharing with communities		
Output 3.1: Improved knowledge of ZRCS activities within communities	Media tours	25%
	Procurement of visibility materials (t-shirts, hats and Bibs)	0%
Outcome 4: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation		
Output 4.1: Monitoring information informs revisions of plan of action where appropriate	Branch capacity assessments in the targeted districts.	0%
	Training of 20 volunteers on ODK (10 in each district)	0%
	Monthly post cash distribution monitoring by volunteers	0%
	Beneficiary survey on CTP utilization and satisfaction	0%
	Pre-assessments in targeted districts (for markets and livelihoods)	0%
	HQ Monitoring	0%
Output 4.2 The findings of evaluations lead to adjustments in future planning	Inception training	50%
	Operation review workshop	0%
	End of implementation evaluation	0%

Contact Information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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**.
