

Emergency appeal operation update

Zimbabwe: Food Insecurity

Emergency Appeal MDRZW011	EA Operations update No 3
Timeframe covered by this update: 16 October 2015- 14 March 2016	Operation timeframe: 14 September 2015 – 14 July 2016
Operation manager (responsible for this EPOA): Naemi Heita, Disaster Risk Management Coordinator, IFRC, Southern Africa	Point of contact: Maxwell Phiri, Secretary General
Operation start date: September 2015	Expected timeframe: 6 months
Overall operation budget: CHF 832,900	
Number of people affected: 1.5 million	Number of people to be assisted: 10,830 (2,166 Households)
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Zimbabwe Red Cross Society Headquarters 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) reach 10,830 people with interventions covering cash transfers (for immediate food need); safe water provision through rehabilitation of boreholes, hygiene promotion, and livelihoods strengthening through provision of agricultural inputs and training of lead farmers. 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.

Danish and American Red Cross Societies are supporting the activities in Muzarabani district bilaterally with Zimbabwe RC. Their combined contribution amounts to **CHF 311,565**.

- On the 2nd of February 2016 the Government of Zimbabwe declared a state of National Disaster in view of the El Nino induced poor rains and the escalating food insecurity situation in the country.
- This update provides information for the first five months of the operation since the launch.
- The NS is requesting for **four months extension** of the Emergency Appeal to allow completion of the remaining activities on work plan and is also **revising the Appeal upwards**, scaling up, to contribute to addressing the deteriorating food situation in the country.
- IFRC, on behalf of Zimbabwe Red Cross would like to thank all the partners, and appeal to 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 five year average. The amount of rainfall received to date is inadequate to meet basic household consumption needs as well as support for livelihoods, agriculture and wildlife. It is recommended that humanitarian assistance be rendered from February to December 2016 and thereafter a review be done for the ensuing period from January 2017 to June 2017. The

most affected sectors are food and nutrition, agriculture, water, education, health and wildlife. The Government is appealing for a total of USD 1,572,009,953 with effect from February to December 2016 to provide humanitarian assistance for both short to medium term interventions. Overall, the food insecure rural population has risen to approximately 2,820,000 which translates to 30% of the population as compares to 16% of the population (1.5 million people) that was predicted during the peak lean season from January to March 2016, according to the government.

The ZIMVAC report highlighted the need to scale-up nutrition-specific interventions to mitigate malnutrition effects among vulnerable groups. Malnutrition remains a challenge especially in children under five. While the immediate needs of these 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

The Finnish, Norwegian and the Danish Red Cross have in-country presence in Zimbabwe and are supporting health, disaster management and organisational development programmes. ZRCS also receives bi-lateral support from the American and the British Red Cross which do not have representatives in the country. ZRCS and its PNSs maintain coordination through quarterly Movement Coordination Meetings (MCM) and emergency steering committee meetings as, and when, the need arises.

Movement Coordination

ZRCS is working closely with in-country partners to ensure there is coordinated implementation of the operation. Updates and plans are being shared with the Movement partners. PNSs have been consulted in the development of this appeal. The ZRCS and Danish RC delegate have conducted joint field monitoring and witnessed the cash transfers as well as the seed distributions in Muzarabani. On 10 and 11 February 2016, the Danish RC Secretary General and a Danish RC back donor, together with IFRC Disaster Risk Management Coordinator conducted a joint field monitoring of the Muzarabani district, witnessed cash transfer and had opportunity to interact with families benefiting from the Appeal. The IFRC delegate also conducted monitoring of the field activities in Mudzi district. The British RC livelihoods advisor visited the National society to assist the NS in developing a Community Food Security and Livelihoods Resilience project proposal as well as coming with the relevant Monitoring and evaluation tools for the 4.5 year project that will be implemented in Chipinge and Mwenezi.

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

ZRCS has been actively participating in the Food Assistance Working Group (FAWG) that is hosted by the WFP in country. This platform allows in-country partners to share their progress and interventions in their areas of operation. ZRCS through the PMER department also participated in the first round of crop and livestock assessment which was a rapid assessment of the current food insecurity situation in the country. This assessment was useful in giving projections that saw the government declaring a state of National disaster as well as launching a USD 1.5 billion international appeal. Together with the British RC livelihoods advisor the NS visited various international actors like FAO, WFP, GOAL and CARE so as to get more information and to learn more about their food insecurity interventions. ZRCS has maintained relationships with the Meteorological department, the civil protection and the office of the Resident UN coordinator.

Operational implementation

The Zimbabwe RC is assisting 10,830 food insecure people in the Mudzi and Muzarabani Districts through the following outcomes:

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

Outcome 1: Increased ZRCS Visibility and information sharing with communities

Output 1.1: Improved knowledge of ZRCS activities within communities

ZRCS conducted media tour at the commencement of the Appeal, the National Society communications manager was joined by local journalists to the field. This was aimed at highlighting the food insecurity situation in the targeted districts. Second media tour was conducted during the visit of the Danish Red Cross Secretary General, this was meant to cover the cash transfer processes and profile the work of the Red Cross. The stories produced during these media tours were published in the local newspapers. ZRCS has also procured visibility material for the Muzarabani operation which includes t-shirts, hats and bibs for the volunteers working in the project. For Mudzi's visibility materials was not procured due to prioritization of activities.

Outcome 2: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation**Output 2.1: Monitoring information informs revisions of plan of action where appropriate**

To date a total number of 20 volunteers (10 in Mudzi and 10 in Muzarabani) were trained on the use of the ODK to collect data and these were useful in the registration of beneficiaries. Sensitization of the Provincial Executive has been conducted and preparations are under way to carry out the Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) to assess the capacity of ZRCS branches in the targeted districts and work on areas of improvement.

Output 2.2: The findings of evaluations lead to adjustments in future planning

An inception workshop was conducted attended by provincial managers, district officers and head office staff. The meeting harmonised the implementers' understanding of the Emergency Appeal's outcomes, outputs and activities. During the meeting the IFRC DRR Coordinator also had the chance to take the participants through the reporting requirements of the Appeal as well as reporting deadlines. The final evaluation will be carried out at the end of the operation jointly by IFRC and Danish RC.

Water, health and hygiene promotion**Outcome 1: Safe access to water for human consumption and livelihoods****Output 1.1 Improved access to safe drinking water for human and livestock.**

To date, 29 water points have been repaired and rehabilitated in Mudzi district. A total of 10 boreholes were completely rehabilitated whilst 19 were repaired. This makes a total of 29 rehabilitated water points which is more than 25 that had been targeted. In line with the rehabilitations, 13 aprons were constructed at rehabilitated water points and 7 water troughs were also constructed. A total number of 203 people (171 males and 32 females) from 29 water point committees received the water point committee training.

In Muzarabani, water point assessment was conducted and a total number of 5 water points were identified in Maungaunga ward. Procurement process of the spare parts is at an advanced stage.

Output 1.2 Hygiene promotion (including key health messages) activities are carried out to target population

Participatory health and hygiene (PHHE) training was also conducted for 23 volunteers. The training also covered hygiene promotion and nutrition. Trained volunteers are carrying out awareness sessions and are reaching estimated 2,300 people per month. The Muzarabani training will be conducted during the month of March 2016.

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

Outcome 1: 10,831 beneficiaries (2,166 households) receive food assistance through cash transfer for five months

Output 1.1: Improved food consumption for food insecure households through a cash transfer programme for five months

A total number of 2,166 households are being assisted through a mobile cash transfer to meet their food needs, for the lean period from January to April 2016. In Mudzi support has been coming through the IFRC and each household has been receiving a total amount of USD 40. So far three cash transfers have been conducted and two post distribution assessments have also been done in both districts. Highlights from the post distribution monitoring indicate that the money received in both districts was put to good use as families mainly spent the money on food and 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.



Beneficiaries receiving payments during a cash distribution exercise in Muzarabani. Photo ZRCS

Output 1.2: Increased crop production knowledge and improved knowledge in small grain production and post-harvesting of grain

This operation adopted the lead farmer approach, where it aimed to select and train 100 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. For Mudzi, the training is yet to be conducted based on funding availability as the priority has been given to cash transfers.

To ensure food productivity at household level, the operation provided drought resistant seeds to the households. As such 944 households in Muzarabani received 5kgs maize seeds as support for the 2015/16 agricultural season. However this was affected by the poor rains received in the district.



Seed distribution in Muzarabani. Photo : ZRCS

In Mudzi, stakeholders have requested that seeds be replaced with small livestock support as gardens do not do well in the district due to lack of water. It is therefore proposed that an amount of CHF 10,830 meant for vegetable seeds be used to support 1,222 families with small livestock (goats).

Overview

The bilateral support that came through the Danish RC covered the costs of operation in Muzarabani whilst Mudzi support came through the IFRC. To date the support combined is at 91.5% coverage. Southern Africa Regional Office has been providing technical support to ZRCS team. Further detailed analysis on output achievements is as outlined below:

PLANNED INTERVENTIONS		
Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors		
Outcome 1: Increased ZRCS Visibility and information sharing with communities		
Output	Activities planned	progress
Output 3.1: Improved knowledge of ZRCS activities within communities	Media tours	50%
	Procurement of visibility materials (t-shirts, hats and Bibs)	50%
Outcome 2: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation		
Output	Activities planned	progress
Output 4.1: Monitoring information informs revisions of plan of action where appropriate	Branch capacity assessments in the targeted districts.	40%
	Training of 20 volunteers on ODK (10 in each district)	100%
	Monthly post cash distribution monitoring by volunteers	50%
	Beneficiary survey on CTP utilization and satisfaction	0%
	Pre-assessments in targeted districts (for markets and livelihoods)	100%
	HQ Monitoring	75%
Output 4.2 The findings of evaluations lead to adjustments in future planning	Inception training	100%
	Operation review workshop	0%
	End of implementation evaluation	0%
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	100%
	Selection of water points for rehabilitation	100%
	Rehabilitation of 25 water points	116%
	Construction of 25 water troughs and aprons	80 %
	Training and establishment of 25 water point committees in borehole maintenance and monitoring and hygiene	116%
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)	38.33%
	Community education on health and hygiene promotion, HIV prevention, Gender Based Violence and nutrition trainings	ongoing
	Awareness sessions in schools, public gatherings and household visits	Ongoing
Food security, Nutrition and Livelihoods		
Outcome 1: Increased food security and dietary diversity at for 2,166 households (10,831 beneficiaries) through farming and access to better nutrition		
Output	Activities planned	progress
Output 1.1: 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	100%
	Malnutrition screening and referrals of the severely malnourished people to health centres	0%
	Preparation of monthly Mobile cash transfer and uploading of plan	75%
	Beneficiary training and sensitization on mobile cash transfers	100%
	Volunteers trained in beneficiary selection. managing of mobile cash transfers	100%
	Engaging of local service providers for cash distribution	100%
	Community notification of distribution date and time	75%
	Distribution of cash amounting to 2,166 households for 4 months	75%
	Post distribution monitoring, reporting and feedback to partners	50%
Output 1.2: 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	40%

	(Training on traditional farming systems also to be taken into consideration for good high yielding harvests)	
	Identification of short season varieties that are tolerant to drought and traditional varieties that are cheaper and locally available	100%
	Post-harvest technology and nutrition training for improved dietary intake at household level targeting 100 lead farmers	40%
	Cascading of training to 2166 households by lead farmers.	Ongoing
	Distribution of drought resistant vegetable seeds to 2166 households	44%
	Monitor good practices by households in post-harvest handling	Ongoing

The National Society is currently finalizing the activities and also revising the Emergency Appeal Plan aimed at covering more districts and more families.

Contact Information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Zimbabwe Red Cross Society:** Maxwell Phiri, Secretary General; phone: +263.4.332638; +263.4.332197; email: phirim@redcrosszim.org.zw
- **IFRC Pretoria Cluster:** Michael Charles, Acting Head of Country Cluster Support Team for Southern Africa; mobile: +27834132988; email: michael.charles@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Africa Region:** Farid Aiywar, Disaster Crisis Prevention Response and Recovery; Nairobi; phone: + 254 731-067489; email: farid.aiywar@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41.22.730.45 29; email: christine.south@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Africa Region Logistics Unit (RLU):** Rishi Ramrakha, Head of regional logistics unit; phone: +254 733 888 022/ Fax +254 20 271 2777; email: rishi.ramrakha@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In IFRC Africa Region:** Fidelis Kangethe, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Coordinator; Addis Ababa; phone: +254 20 2835 155, +254 714 026 229 ; email: fidelis.kangethe@ifrc.org

Please send all pledges for funding to zonerm.africa@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting):

- **IFRC Africa Region:** Robert Ondrusek, PMER Coordinator Africa, phone: +254 731 067277; email: robert.ondrusek@ifrc.org

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.**
