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Operation Update Report

Zimbabwe: Tropical Cyclone Eloise

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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| DREF n° MDRZW015 | GLIDE n° : TC-2021-000009-ZWE |
| Operation update n° 1: 24 March 2021 | Timeframe covered by this update: 29 January to 22 March 2021 |
| Operation start date: 29 January 2021 | Operation timeframe: 4 months (End date: 31 May 2021) |
| Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 192,509 | DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 192,509 |
| N° of people being assisted: 2,000 people (400 HH) | |
| Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, British Red Cross, Belgian RC | |
| Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Department of Civil Protection (DCP), World Food Programme (WFP), UN OCHA, World Vision, Care, IOM, Goal, UNICEF, Save the Children and FAO, Mercy Corps. | |

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

This Operation Update informs on the below changes:

- A strategic change from implementing activities in Chiredzi district to Masvingo Rural district, after assessments made by the National Society revealed that needs were more pertinent in Masvingo Rural district.
- Decrease of number of targeted households to receive emergency shelter support from 200 HH to 175 HH because of some of them have already accessed emergency shelter support;
- The inclusion of food provision into the response strategy for an overall 225 HH (1,125 people) in Masvingo Rural (95HH) and Chivi district (130HH). This will be done through the reallocation of savings from Shelter / NFI interventions and related logistical costs to food items through direct food distributions targeting the same 225HH (1,125 people) displaced by floods. The budget has been revised to materialize these changes.

This change of strategy and activities will not change the budget allocation as it is proposed that savings will be used since the demand for Shelter is no longer as anticipated due to changes in context relating to delay in implementation of the operation – these delays are linked to procurement of shelter materials which slowed planned distributions and delays in funds disbursement to the Cluster Delegation from Regional Office as the compliance requirements to the IFRC financial management policy required time to fulfill. Food assistance is being proposed to occur for two (2) months.

Overall, the budget allocated for this DREF operation (CHF 192,509) and the implementation timeframe (4 months) remain unchanged.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Following widespread floods resulting from Tropical Cyclone Eloise in the east and south-eastern parts of Zimbabwe, starting on 23 January 2021, this [DREF Operation](#) was launched for CHF 192,509 on 29 January 2021 with support from IFRC, to provide support to 400 households (2,000 people) affected in Chivi and Masvingo Rural districts in Masvingo province, Beitbridge district in Matebeleland South province and Chipinge district in Manicaland province. Please refer to [EPoA](#) which details on the description of the disaster.



Cyclone damage to shelter Chipinge ©ZRCS

Summary of current response

Overview of National Society

One month after this DREF operation was launched, the below has been achieved:

1. Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) has mobilised a network of approximately 150 trained volunteers to support the response in targeted areas with services including First Aid, Shelter provision and hygiene promotion.
2. At Headquarters level, the ZRCS deployed 10 staff members to the areas affected to undertake a detailed needs assessment, concurrently with distributions of household items (HHIs) for shelter including blankets and COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs). To date, 120 tarpaulins (1 per HH) from ZRCS' own stock have been distributed to affected people, 563 masks, 80 units of liquid detergent for handwashing, 43 buckets and 41 blankets in Masvingo and Manicaland.
3. Distribution of 70 tarpaulins has already been done in Manicaland, reaching 35 households, and two tarpaulins provided to the evacuation centres to serve for the construction of the kitchen. Distribution of 48 tarpaulins to 48 households in Masvingo province. Overall, 120 tarpaulins have been distributed thanks to support from partners including the Danish RC, British RC, the Finnish RC, Belgian RC, ICRC and ZRCS resources.
4. Coordination of meetings at national, provincial and district level and collaboration with the Department of Civil Protection (DCP) and the inter-agency assessment team on continuing assessments. Joint preliminary assessments with the DCP and IFRC delegate have been conducted in Manicaland and Masvingo Provinces enabling additional information on the type and extent of needs on the ground to be available.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC Southern Africa Country Cluster Delegation will continue to provide technical support to ZRCS during the entire implementation period. To date the office has managed to:

1. Provide technical support to the NS through participation in the field assessment on the status of the affected areas
2. Deployment of dedicated surge support operation coordination for the period of 2 months to ensure the efficient implementation of interventions.

The NS is working closely with the following in-country PNSs in the following thematic areas:

- Danish RC- Forecast Based Action Project (FBA), Youth Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (YSRHR)
- Finnish RC – Forecast Based Action, DRR and School Safety Model
- Belgian RC- First Aid
- British RC- CEA, Food Insecurity Response
- ICRC- Blankets, First Aid Kits and Family Restoration Links
- IFRC- Logistical Support
- UNICEF - WASH

Overview of other actors actions in country

The district government authorities in the targeted areas are coordinating the response activities, ably complemented by other actors. Response by other actors have been once off comprising of NFIs and food items but this did not cover all the people that were affected.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

Tropical Cyclone Eloise reached Zimbabwe on 23 January, with winds of around 140km/h and gusts of up to 160km/h (category 2 tropical cyclone equivalent). Tropical System Eloise swept across the south eastern parts of Zimbabwe, affecting Manicaland, Masvingo and Matebeleland South. The worse hit districts were Chipinge, Chivi, Chiredzi, Masvingo and Beitbridge and brought heavy rainfall that caused Tokwe Mukosi Dam in Masvingo to overflow.



Heavily leached field in Beitbridge ©ZRCS

According to the joint assessment conducted by IFRC and ZRCS from 12 to 19 February, the following emerging needs resulted from the different contextual impacts of Tropical Storm Eloise:

- The recent field assessment to the affected districts shows that, with flood waters present in multiple locations, the risk of water-borne or water related diseases, including cholera, is high.
- Tens of thousands of hectares of crops have been flooded due to the cyclone and incessant rains, which could have consequences for the next harvest and food security in the period ahead.
- Information collected through the field visit and discussions with affected communities, local authorities shows that livestock diseases are on the upswing, especially tick-borne diseases. Some households lost livestock due to flooding as they were swept away during the cyclone period.
- Over 50 houses in wards visited by the assessment team have been destroyed or partially damaged by TS Eloise. Most of the damaged houses were substandard and built using low quality materials. Affected households are requesting for cement and roofing materials to build more resilient houses to withstand future cyclones and accompanying floods and winds. By the time of the visit, Chivi District had 74 households totalling 453 people living at an evacuation centre established at Maringire Primary School which is in Ward 22. But overall, the total number of people that have been displaced due to flooding is 1,125.
- Tokwe Mukosi Dam spilled for the first time; the crops are submerged and damaged therefore, the affected families are in urgent need of food assistance.
- In all the districts visited, multiple major roads require rehabilitation following damages due to incessant rains.

Based on above summary, initially identified needs remained largely relevant although they emphasize the below:

1. There was greater impact of the Tugwe Mukosi dam backflow. Information from Masvingo Province indicates that the high hazard of floods from the overflowing of Tokwe Mkosi Dam has affected 1,125 people (225HH) in Chivi and Masvingo Rural, necessitating the establishment of an evacuation centre. Households will be submerged with the continuous rainfall; the likelihood is high that returning families will not find a suitable shelter and food from their fields.
2. The ZRCS rapid assessment coupled with the joint detailed assessment report concluded that due to the delays in implementation, the needs are evolving but access to food, shelter and NFI still remains relevant on a district-by-district response plan. Long term interventions such as the provision of transitional shelter though important could be catered for under a different funding mechanism. The delays in implementation is as a results of procurement and supply chain bottlenecks due to restrictions imposed by Covid-19 regulations which include border closure, lockdowns and curfew among other things resulting in most factories operating at lower capacity or closure.
3. Other planned sectoral needs such as WASH and PSS were also confirmed to remain relevant and support will be discharged as planned.

Targeting

The overall target for this DREF operation remains 2,000 people or 400 households in the affected areas of Masvingo (Chivi: 130HH; Masvingo Rural: 95HH), Manicaland (Chipinge: 125HH) and Matebeleland South (Beitbridge: 50HH), to be reached with WASH, PSS and First Aid. However, the target for emergency shelter and household items has decreased from 200 HH as initially planned in EPoA to 175 HH because some of them have already accessed emergency shelter support. Food distributions will target Masvingo province for a total of 225HH for 2 months (Chivi: 130HH; Masvingo rural: 95HH). All targeted locations are rural areas.

Operation Risk Assessment

The current DREF operation is exposed to several risks as highlighted in the [EPoA](#), for which NS and Cluster Delegation have discussed mitigation measures to ensure targeted communities receive the needed support.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

This DREF operation aims at providing immediate relief assistance in shelter and HHIs, health, WASH, Food items and PGI to 400 families (2,000 people) who have been most affected by Tropical Storm Eloise in Chivi, Masvingo Rural, Chipinge and Beitbridge Rural Districts. The operation was initially launched for a period of four (4) months in anticipation of potential procurement challenges and to ensure proper completion of activities to maximize impact of targeted communities. This implementation timeframe is expected to be respected now that funds have been transferred and procurement of shelter items is completed.

The focus will be on the following proposed activities:

1. Shelter and household items (Target: 875 people or 175 households)

The NS plans to support 175 HH with delivery of emergency shelter materials by procuring and distributing directly to the families. This is a decrease in target from initially planned 200 households in the [EPoA](#). This is because some households have started the rehabilitation process of their homes and therefore are more eligible for transitional shelter. Affected families will also receive sensitization on safer shelter construction practices to build back better. Thirty (30) volunteers (10 per targeted location) will be involved in shelter activities, supporting targeted households as needed to erect the emergency shelters. These 30 volunteers will receive training for 3 days in shelter techniques (building back safer) and will be deployed for an overall 4 days to support erecting all 175 emergency shelters.

2. Food Items (Target: 1,125 people or 225 households)

The need to provide food to affected households has arisen because of the displacement caused by the backflow of the Tugwe Mukosi dam. As such, the NS plans to support an overall 225 households (1,125 people) with food items as an immediate response to the food gap. Indeed, 95 households (475 people) in Masvingo Rural and 130 HH (650 people) in Chivi District will be targeted using direct pre-packed food distributions to serve for two months. The provided basic food basket shall consist of items indicated in below table, established based on what ZRCS uses under the current voucher system:

Table 1: Content of food basket for each household

| Item description | Quantity per day (kg) | Quantity/month/individual (kg) | Unit of measure | Quantity for HH of 5 persons (kg) |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mealie meal | 0.3 | 10 | Kgs | 50 |
| Dry sugar beans | 0.066 | 2 | Kgs | 10 |
| Cooking oil | 0.025 | 0.75 | litres | 3.75 |
| Fine salt | 0.006 | 0.2 | Kgs | 1 |
| Sugar | 0.02 | 0.6 | Kgs | 3 |

Activities to be implemented include:

- Training of 40 volunteers (20 per location) in beneficiary registration using Kobo tool;
- Procurement of food and packaging;
- Distribution management and post distribution monitoring.

Strict Covid protocols will be observed including conducting sanitation and awareness raising, masking up and sanitizing.

To note, in-kind food distributions will be conducted for the following reasons;

- Mobile money transfer is challenging as most of the local shops charge 20% additional for local currency.
- Local currency is not available and using USD is not possible as per Government policy because access is challenging;
- There are competent local (Masvingo) wholesalers which can supply the goods required to ZRCS for onwards distribution to targeted families;
- Since the affected persons are at evacuation centre, it is easier to hire truck and deposit them at the evacuation centre, no need for last mile logistics.
- The beneficiary caseload is not too large to cause huge logistics challenges and costs.

Please note that the **Health** and **WASH** activities remain unchanged and will continue to be implemented as planned in the [EPoA](#). Target for these two sectors also remain unchanged, i.e. 2,000 people or 400 households.

Operational Support services

Operational support services remain same as detailed in the [EPoA](#).



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 1,125 people (225 HH)

Male: 410

Female: 715

Requirements (CHF): 33,005

Population to be assisted: 1,125 people (225 households) in Masvingo Rural and Chivi district

Programme standards/benchmarks: Zimbabwe food basket

| P&B Output Code | Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods | Percentage of displaced HH reached with food items to support their basic needs (Target: 56% or 225 households) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of verified beneficiaries registered (Target: 1,125 people) Number of volunteers mobilized and trained for the food distribution (Target: 40 volunteers) Number of Post-distribution monitoring undertaken. (Target: 1) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| P&B Output Code | Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.5: Households are provided with in kind food assistance to address their basic needs | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| | Activities planned Month | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AP008 | Mobilization, training and per-diem for 40 Volunteers / staff to be trained on food distribution management | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AP008 | Verification and registration of beneficiaries. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AP008 | Procurement and packaging of food items | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AP008 | Conduct food distributions | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AP008 | Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|
|  <p>Shelter People reached: 0 Male: 0 Female: 0</p> | | |
| Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions | | |
| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
| % of targeted households reached with emergency shelter support (<i>indicator target revised</i>) | 100% or 175 HH | 0 |
| Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families | | |
| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
| # of volunteers trained in emergency shelter construction | 20 | 20 |
| # of people reached with shelter NFIs (<i>indicator target revised</i>) | 875 | 0 |
| Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households | | |
| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
| # of households provided with technical support and guidance on the type of support they receive (<i>indicator target revised</i>) | 175 HH | 0 |
| % of recipient households acknowledging relevance of technical guidance received (<i>indicator target revised</i>) | At least 50% or 88 HH | 0 |
| Progress towards outcomes | | |
| <p>Tarpaulins are being prepositioned ahead of distributions planned in the next 8 days once the ongoing beneficiary registrations are completed. A one-day shelter orientation has been conducted for 20 volunteers (10 Chipinge, 10 Masvingo). This was coupled with beneficiary registration. The target reach has reduced because some families have already recovered from emergency shelter needs and now in need of transitional shelter.</p> <p>Procurement delays of shelter materials explained in the needs assessment section culminated in the delays in planned distributions. This was compounded by delays in funds disbursement to the Cluster Delegation from Regional office as the compliance requirements to the IFRC financial management policy required time to fulfill.</p> | | |

| | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
|  <p>Livelihoods and basic needs People reached: 0 Male: 0 Female: 0</p> | | |
| Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods | | |
| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
| Numer of displaced HH reached with food items to support their basic needs (<i>new indicator</i>) | 225 | 0 |
| Output 1.1: | | |
| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
| Number of households verified and registered (<i>new indicator</i>) | 225 | 0 |
| Number of Post-distribution monitoring undertaken (<i>new indicator</i>) | 1 | 0 |
| Number of volunteers mobilized and trained for the food distribution (<i>new indicator</i>) | 40 | 0 |

Progress towards outcomes

Since this is a newly integrated sector, targeting will be done in two locations (Chivi and Masvingo Rural) as of last week of March. Volunteers to be involved in these activities have been identified and will receive training on registration using KoBo tool. Targeted families will be selected from the most vulnerable who are already benefitting from overall response. IFRC office in Harare will support NS with procurement of food items, which will later be packaged and directly distributed to the 225 targeted households.

**Health**

People reached: 0

Male: 0

Female: 0

Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
|--|----------------------|--------|
| % of targeted people reached with health support | 100% or 2,000 people | 0 |

Output 1.1: The health situation and immediate risks are assessed using agreed guidelines

| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
|--|-------------------|--------|
| # of districts where assessments were done | 4 districts | 0 |
| # of volunteers trained on PSS and FA | 20 volunteers | 0 |
| # of people reached with PSS services | 10% or 200 people | 0 |
| # of mosquito nets distributed | 800 nets | 0 |

Progress towards outcomes

Now that funds have reached IFRC Harare delegation, arrangements are being made for activities in the health sector to begin. Preparations are ongoing to commence volunteers training and other relating activities.

The commencement of the distribution was also delayed due to supply chain constraints as a result to strict Covid-19 restrictions including closure of land and air borders, curfew resulting in reduced industrial production.

**Water, sanitation and hygiene**

People reached: 0

Male: 0

Female: 0

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| % of targeted people reached with WASH assistance | 100% or 2,000 people | 0 |

Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
|---|------------------------------|--------|
| # households provided with buckets | 400 HH | 0 |
| # of people reached with potable water | 2,000 people | 0 |
| % of people targeted acknowledging usefulness of WASH related items distributed | At least 50% or 1,000 people | 0 |

| Output 1.3: Adequate sanitation which meets Sphere standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
| # of HH having received sanitation equipment | 400 HH | 0 |
| Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population | | |
| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
| # of people reached by hygiene promotion activities | 2000 people | 0 |
| # of volunteers trained in hygiene promotion activities | 80 volunteers | 0 |
| # of hygiene promotion sessions conducted | 12 sessions | 0 |
| # of women and girls reached with hygiene materials | 600 people | 0 |
| Progress towards outcomes | | |
| To date, from ZRCS' own stock has been distributed to affected people, 563 masks, 80 units of liquid detergent for handwashing, 43 buckets and 41 blankets in Masvingo and Manicaland. Now that procurement has been finalized, target number will be achieved once activities under this DREF operation are implemented. | | |

| Strategies for Implementation | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
| # of volunteers insured | 140 volunteers | 140 volunteers |
| # volunteers provided with visibility material and protective clothing for their safety | 140 volunteers | 140 volunteers |
| # of monitoring visits conducted by Cluster Delegation | 2 | 1 |
| # of CEA meetings conducted | 3 | 0 |
| # of Lessons learned workshops conducted | 1 | 0 |
| Progress towards outcomes | | |
| <p>A monitoring visit was conducted by the deployed Surge personnel, the project manager and Cluster Delegation livelihoods officer. Together with NS, this group conducted the detailed needs assessment which has allowed this operation Update.</p> <p>Various coordination meetings with NS, PNSs and authorities have been held to ensure that response was still relevant and there was not duplication. CEA meeting will be conducted to ensure most vulnerable families are selected for support – this will be done with the community leaders and the authorities to ensure transparency and that everyone understands the selection criteria.</p> <p>LLW will be conducted at the end of the operation to reflect on overall response and capture relevant operational learnings.</p> | | |

D. Financial Report

Thanks to savings made in procurement of shelter items, the National Society was able to include provision of food items to 225 households without increasing the overall budget of this operation. As such, the budget remains at **CHF 192,509**. The revised budget is attached.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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