

Emergency Plan of Action operation update

Zimbabwe: Food Insecurity

Emergency Appeal	Operation n° MDRZW011
Operations update n°1 Date of issue: 29 September 2015	Timeframe covered by this update: 14 to 27 September 2015.
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Naemi Heita, Disaster Risk Management Coordinator, IFRC, Southern Africa.	Point of contact: Maxwell Phiri, Secretary General, Zimbabwe Red Cross.
Operation start date: 14 September, 2015	Expected timeframe: 6 months (End date: 14 March 2016).
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 presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Zimbabwe Red Cross Society headquarter Provincial Branches of Mashonaland East, Mashonaland Central, (5 fulltime, 9 Support staff, and 60 volunteers).	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant): 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 to support the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) reach 10,830 people with interventions in the sectors of water, health, hygiene promotion, food security, nutrition, and livelihoods (carried out through cash transfer programming).
- **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.
- This operations update n°1 provides information regarding the first 15 days of the operation since its launch.

To date, this appeal has not received any funding and IFRC, on behalf of Zimbabwe Red Cross is appealing to all partners to consider availing resources in order to enable the National Society provide the needed support to the targeted beneficiaries through the planned activities as detailed in the [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#).

[<click here to view the contact details and here to go directly to the donor response report.](#)

Summary

A slow onset of the rainy season in Zimbabwe 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. According to the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZIMVAC) report it is estimated that up to 16% (1,490,024) of Zimbabwe's rural population are food insecure and 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 are food assistance, ZRCS

proposes that food assistance provided be complemented by livelihoods recovery interventions such as seed support, training in climate-smart agriculture practices, and water and sanitation activities.

ZRCS will provide assistance 10,830 persons (2,166 households) that are in a severe food insecurity situation in the Mudzi, and Muzarabani Districts through cash transfers to 2,166 households to meet immediate food needs, for the lean period from November 2015 to March 2016 using mobile phones. The cash transfer value of US\$ 48 per household per month was recommended based on the findings of market surveys conducted to determine the cost of a standard food basket for a household.

The livelihoods recovery activities and trainings will be implemented with support from 100 lead farmers who will cascade trainings to the targeted beneficiaries. Each lead farmer will cascade trainings and skills to an average of 20 households. The trainings will focus on livelihoods support with an emphasis on climate change and adaptation through increasing awareness in climate smart agricultural practices. To ensure effective utilisation of the resources all planned trainings will seek to integrate and mainstream information on nutrition, livelihoods and health promotion.

Twenty boreholes will be rehabilitated in Mudzi district, and five in Muzarabani. To ensure sustainability of the intervention, water point committees will be set up and trained to maintain the boreholes and ensure that the water points are used in a sustainable manner. Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE) activities will be conducted in the targeted districts through 60 volunteers. Trained volunteers will be do hygiene promotion and nutrition education in the target districts through 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 to identify areas of strengths and recommend areas for improvement.

Coordination and partnerships

ZRCS coordination mechanisms will include quarterly Movement coordination meetings as well as emergency steering committee meetings as and when the need arises. Support is being provided by in-country partners who include Norwegian Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, IFRC and the ICRC. The NS also receives support from the American Red Cross and the British Red Cross. The SARO office continues to offer support to the ZRCS. Currently there is a bilateral engagement between the ZRCS and the Danish Red Cross for the possibility of a bilateral support for Muzarabani district.

ZRCS maintains a good working and collaborative relationship with the Government through the department of social services and other organizations in the humanitarian sector. The ZRCS Operation Manager held a meeting on 23 September 2015 with the Department of Social services to sensitize the department and give updates on the operation. ZRCS also attended a meeting that was organized by the UN resident Coordinator on 2 September 2015 in which updates with regards the food security situation and response in the country were presented. Additionally, on 11 September, ZRCS attended a food assistance working group meeting chaired by the WFP. The meeting was attended by inter-agency partners including Care International, DFID, Amalima, ADRA as well as the Government through the social services department.

FEWSNET provided an update on the food security situation in country and projections were showing a great need for food assistance during the peak hunger period. During the meeting organizations shared their plans with regards to the food insecurity situation; the government of Zimbabwe indicated that they will provide 450,000 MT of maize to be distributed by WFP beginning 28 September 2015. Stakeholder engagement has also been done at provincial and district level with the social services department, and other local authorities.

ZRCS is preparing for an inception meeting scheduled for the week beginning 28 September which will clarify and layout an implementation plan for activities that will be conducted at field level. The ZRCS Operations manager has had meetings with the department of social services at National level whilst stakeholder sensitization at both district and provincial level has also been successfully done. The communications department has profiled 3 affected households and shared the information with the SARO communications department. Engagement of the local Mobile cash transfer service provider has been done and all the relevant documents have been processed.

Operational implementation

Overview

CHF 83,000 has been released from the DREF to start the operation while funding is being raised through the appeal to meet the needs as outlined in the emergency plan of action. The IFRC's Southern Africa Regional Office has been providing technical support to ZRCS team, an Operations Manager will be recruited to support the National Society implement the operation.

Planned interventions:

Water, health and hygiene promotion		
Outcome 1: Safe access to water for human consumption and livelihoods		
Output	Activities planned	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access to safe drinking water for human and livestock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water point assessment 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selection of water points for rehabilitation 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation of 25 water points 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of 25 water troughs 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training and establishment of 25 water point committees in borehole maintenance and monitoring and hygiene 	0%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Hygiene promotion are carried out to target population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 Volunteers trained in Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE or PHAST methodology). 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community education on health and hygiene promotion, HIV prevention, Gender Based Violence and nutrition training. 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (10,830 beneficiaries) better farming and access to better nutrition.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved food consumption in food insecure households through a mobile cash transfer programme for five months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing of beneficiary selection tools. 	100%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder engagement and notification. 	100%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiary selection and verification. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malnutrition screening and referrals of the severely Malnourished people to health centers. 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of monthly Mobile cash transfer and uploading of plan. 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beneficiary training and sensitization on mobile cash transfers. 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers trained in beneficiary selection. managing of mobile cash transfers 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging of local service providers for cash transfers. 	100%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community notification of distribution date and time 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of cash amounting to USD 48 to 2,166 households for 5 months. 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post distribution monitoring, reporting and feedback to partners. 	0%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased diversified farming and improved knowledge in climate smart agriculture and post-harvesting of grain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of short season varieties that are tolerant to drought and traditional varieties that are cheaper and locally available. 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-harvest technology and nutrition training for improved dietary intake at household level targeting 100 lead farmers. 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cascading of training to 2166 households by lead farmers. 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of drought resistant vegetable seeds to 2,166 households. 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved knowledge of ZRCS activities within communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media tours 	25%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring information informs revisions of plan of action where appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branch capacity assessments in the targeted districts. 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of 20 volunteers on ODK (10 in each district) 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly post cash distribution monitoring by volunteers 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiary survey on CTP utilization and satisfaction 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-assessments in targeted districts (for markets and livelihoods) 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HQ Monitoring 	0%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The findings of evaluations lead to adjustments in future planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception training 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation review workshop 	0%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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**.