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Emergency appeal operation update Zimbabwe: Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRZW006

Operation update n°2

30 January, 2013

Period covered by this Ops Update: 04 January
2013-28 January 2013

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,290,342.

Appeal coverage: 17% (excluding DREF
allocation of CHF 120,000)

[<click here for updated donor response; here for
contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This **Emergency Appeal** was initially launched on 19 December 2012 for CHF 1,290,342 for 9 months to provide immediate assistance to 10,000 beneficiaries.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 120,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society respond to support this operation. Un-earmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.
- **Operations Update 1** was issued on 8 January 2013
- The Swedish Red Cross has contributed CHF 215,424 towards the appeal.



ZRCs and DDF staff assessing boreholes in Nkayi/ ZRCs photo

Summary

The DREF funds received enabled the national society to continue with start up activities which included beneficiary selection, identification of boreholes to be rehabilitated, commodity supplier identification and volunteer mobilization.

Further consultation with district authorities highlighted the need to review the beneficiary package to constitute 30kg of maize meal, 2 litres of oil and 2kg of sugar beans. Further it has been agreed not to distribute maize seeds immediately as a result of the delay in mobilising resources, but to purchase seeds in the lead up to planting season for horticulture production which begins in March 2013.

The joint IFRC/ZRCs committee of contracts convened and completed the tendering process for the food items and borehole rehabilitation. The food distribution and borehole rehabilitation will be implemented during the first half of the month of February 2013.

The funding to date has been received from the Swedish Red Cross. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks for the contribution. This funding will be used for procurement and

distribution of relief food for at least two months, purchase of vegetable seeds and tools, additional borehole rehabilitation and latrine construction.

The situation

The food security situation remains the same as the last reporting period. Some rains have been reported in the district and farmers have started planting maize crop. The pasture situation is showing signs of improving and will in the immediate term impact positively on animal/ stock weights. The significant challenge being foreseen is the unavailability of agricultural inputs for most households.

Coordination and partnerships

The Southern Africa Regional Representation and the IFRC Zimbabwe Country Representation have continued to provide administrative and logistical support for effective implementation of the emergency response operations.

In Nkayi district, World Vision, with the assistance from WFP, is supporting 552 household whereas Grain Marketing Board, with the grain loan scheme has provided grain support to 2,300 households. Food Agricultural Organisation (FAO) seek to engage local NGOs in a post planting survey to predict the food security situation in Zimbabwe for 2013/14.

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society in its implementation has closely worked with Social Services Department and AGRITEX in the beneficiary identification process. The District Development Fund (DDF) has provided technical support to ZRCS in the identification of boreholes to be rehabilitated during the reporting period.

The Swedish Red Cross has provided CHF212, 545.00 earmarked funds towards the emergency operation. The funds will go a long way in meeting the food security needs of Nkayi community. Other Red Cross partners present in Zimbabwe are Norwegian and Finnish Red Cross, ICRC and IFRC. The food security situation need for the current appeal has been discussed among in-country partners.

National Society Capacity Building:

The ZRCS has continued working with experienced staff in the district. The National Society prior work in the district enabled a smooth and efficient operation start up (including links with local authorities, community meetings and volunteer mobilisation). The national society has identified 140 volunteers, who have been inducted and trained on the activities of the operation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Overview

Some 2,000 beneficiaries have been identified and registered for the relief food distribution and vegetable seeds in the three wards allocated for the operation. In total three suppliers for food items has been locally identified and tender is waiting technical approval from Dubai Regional Logistics Unit.

The assessments for borehole rehabilitation have been completed and procurement of materials is ongoing. In total five suppliers for borehole rehabilitation equipment were assessed. Preliminary adjudication has been

completed. Borehole rehabilitation equipment supplier has been identified. Food commodities tender has been forwarded to Dubai Regional Logistics Unit for approval.

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Outcome 1: Immediate food needs of 2,000 households (10,000 beneficiaries) in Nkayi district of Matebeleland North Province is met for four months.)	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Supplementary food baskets are distributed to 10,000 vulnerable people For four months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance • Preparation of monthly food distribution and uploading plan. • Procurement of 420 MT of maize meal, 32 MT of oil and 72 MT of pulses. • Community notification of distribution date and time; • Distribution of monthly food packs (10.5kg maize, 1.8kg beans and 0.75kg oil) to 10,000 beneficiaries for 4 months. • Monitoring and evaluation of distribution activities • Train 20 volunteers on food distribution (beneficiary identification, targeting and post distribution monitoring). • Reporting.

The national society has carried out sensitization campaigns in the three target wards (ward 3, 4 and 20) and have jointly with the community leadership and the Social Services Department carried out registration of 2,000 beneficiary households who will receive food commodities. The beneficiaries were selected based on a number of vulnerability indicators agreed upon in the district, which included child-headed households, elderly or disabled-headed households, families hosting disabled persons, labour and resource constrained households. The distribution of beneficiaries per ward is as follows:

- Ward 20 - 890 households
- Ward 3 - 510 households
- Ward 4 - 600 households

Discussions with district authorities and beneficiaries have informed a review of the food needs and will now be a package of 30kg of maize meal, 2 litres of oil and 2 kg of sugar beans per household. The average cost will be USD 27 per package.

The joint IFRC and ZRCS tender committee sat and adjudicated the tender for distribution of the food items, the package of tender documents has now been forwarded to Dubai Regional Logistics Unit for technical approval. Distribution of food items is set to start immediately upon receipt of technical approval.

140 volunteers earlier identified to participate in the relief operation were sensitized and inducted on the nature and detail of the operation, including beneficiary registration, relief distribution, beneficiary feedback (satisfaction and complaints), monitoring and evaluation.

Challenges or constraints:

Other district level NGOs operating in the district have created an expectation of providing allowances to government officials when providing technical advice to NGOs. This has become an expectation and has caused challenges when we work various stakeholders.

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

Outcome 2: Reduced food insecurity among 2,000 affected rural households through inputs support and training.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Productive assets/inputs, through the distribution of seeds and tools, for primary production and training are provided in accordance with the seasonal calendar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous and detailed assessment, of food security, nutrition and livelihoods are carried out. • Distribution of tools (each farm will receive four watering cans, two Levelling rakes, two hoes and two wheelbarrows). • 100 lead farmers² (selected from the beneficiaries) trained to cascade crop production, climate change and adaptation and market linkage training to 2,000 farmers at a ratio of 1 lead farmer To 20 farmers. • Beneficiary training in seed selection and preservation to 100 lead farmers. • Distribution of vegetable seed packs to garden beneficiaries to 100 households. • Tracking system / monitoring of progress for the targeted farmers

To date, 2,000 household have been identified to receive inputs such as maize seeds fertilizer and vegetable seeds. However, due to the delayed start up of the operation, it has been necessary to revise the activities and planned supplies for procurement. The maize seeds and related fertilizer planned for procurement are highly likely to be removed from appeal since maize production is past planting stage and crops are now at growth and vegetative stages. The first harvests are expected in March and April if the rains remain consistent. However, plans are in place to continue and scale-up vegetable production during the implementation phase.

Challenges

The delay in the procurement of maize seeds and fertilizer may affect significantly the emergency plan and might lead to the maize being removed from the appeal as the seed varieties available in Zimbabwe require more than 3months to reach the reproductive stage. The benefits of giving maize seed will therefore not be realised during the 9 months of this operation.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome 3: Access to safe and clean water for domestic and livestock consumption and improved hygiene practises and access to basic sanitation facilities for 10,000 beneficiaries in Nkayi district Is increased.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,000 people have access to safe water. • Increased access to water for livestock. • Increased knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous assessments of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation. • 50 boreholes rehabilitated with water troughs constructed at each borehole. • 20 volunteers trained in participatory health and hygiene education. • 400 household latrines constructed in selected vulnerable

in hygiene.	communities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community level cascading of participatory health hygiene education.
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Progress towards outcomes

Twenty boreholes were identified for rehabilitation in consultation with the District Development Fund (DDF) as well as the community. The DDF is the government department mandated to oversee rural water supply and will work closely with the ZRCS in the exercise. The DDF will also train pump attendants, who will lead in the rehabilitation of the water points as well as the water point committees who will oversee and ensure sustainable use of the boreholes. A material schedule has been drawn and procurement of parts is underway. The construction/rehabilitation works will start first week of February once materials have been delivered.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Outcome 4: Community resilience is strengthened through disaster risk reduction activities focusing on early warning systems and, enhanced coping mechanisms/strategies.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affected communities are better prepared to respond to food insecurity problems resulted from weather induced emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,000 households trained in early warning systems. 2,000 households trained in climate change awareness and adaptation. Develop 1 district level contingency plan and 40 communities based early warning systems.

Progress towards outcomes

Progress has yet to start against the DRR outcome, and is planned for later in the operational timeframe.

Logistics

The logistics unit has successfully invited tenders for food suppliers and borehole equipment and the preliminary adjudication process has been completed.

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 (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster 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.

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

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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