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Information bulletin

Zimbabwe: Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRxx123; Glide n° XXX	Date of issue: 09 September 2019
Date of disaster: N/A	Point of contact: Karikoga Kutadzaushe, Operations Director, Zimbabwe Red Cross
Operation start date: N/A	Expected timeframe: N/A
Host National Society: Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS)	
Number of people affected: 2.29 million people	Number of people to be assisted:
N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation: 3 (British red Cross, Danish Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross)	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: ECHO and WFP	

This bulletin is for information purposes only and reflects the current situation and details available at the time of publication. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and other Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners are working with Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) to assist the affected people.

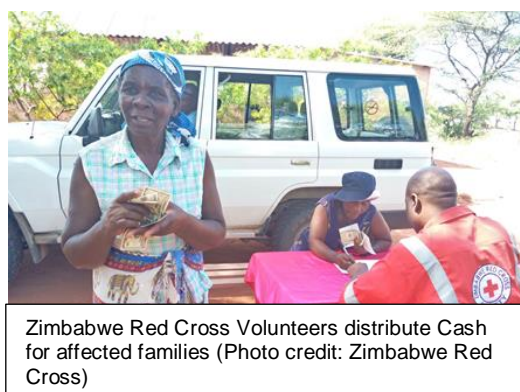
The situation

As a result of El-Nino induced poor rainfall season, Cyclone Idai and economic shocks, Zimbabwe is currently going through a number of humanitarian challenges. The drought condition that started in 2018 continue to affect large numbers of population both in rural and urban areas. [Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee \(ZimVAC\) 2019 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Report](#) estimates that 5.5 million people in the rural areas are vulnerable and are at risk of food insecurity. [The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\) for Zimbabwe](#) estimates that 2.29 million people have been facing severe acute food insecurity since June. The IPC further projects that 3.58 million people will face severe acute food insecurity during the October – December 2019 period, with 2,475,000 people in crisis (IPC phase3) and 1,105,000 people in emergency (IPC phase4) situation.

Furthermore, the Government of Zimbabwe estimated that about 2.2 million people in urban areas are also food insecure. According to WFP, 2.3 million people in rural Zimbabwe were in "crisis emergency mode" and need food aid.

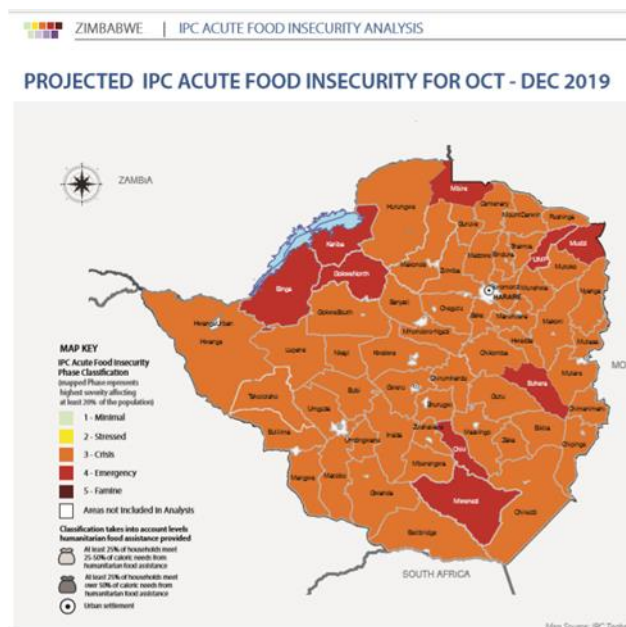
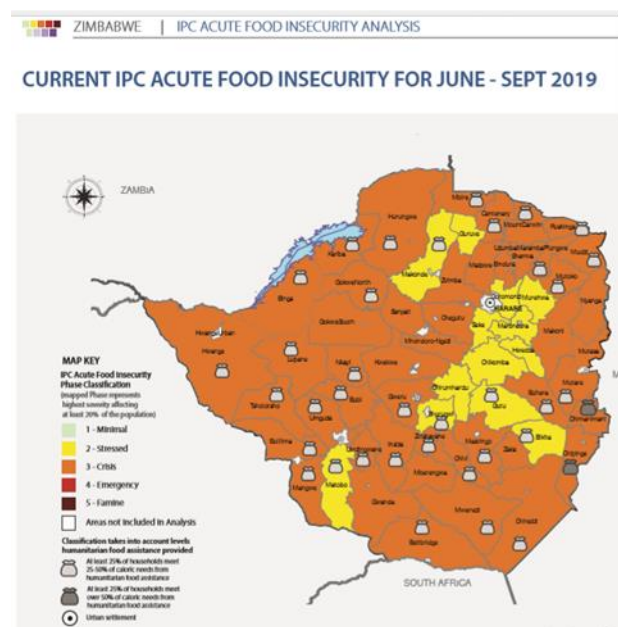
While Zimbabwe was responding to the food insecurity crisis, Cyclone Idai made landfall in the port city of Beira, Mozambique in March this year. Idai weakened to a tropical storm and moved to Zimbabwe causing heavy rains for many days and triggering floods which swept away hundreds of houses in the eastern and south-eastern parts of the country. Cyclone Idai caused damage and destruction to harvests and the Government declared a state of disaster in affected areas. Chimanimani, Chipinge and Mutare districts (Manicaland Province) were the most affected. According to reports, 172 fatalities had been confirmed, 4,884 people displaced, 327 missing and at least 53,999 people are believed to have been affected. Cyclone affected areas are also significantly affected by the drought and the deteriorating macro-economic situation.

Moreover, the current macroeconomic and political challenges in the country have contributed to further deterioration of the situation. Rising inflation has resulted in prices of essential food items such as sugar, cooking oil



Zimbabwe Red Cross Volunteers distribute Cash for affected families (Photo credit: Zimbabwe Red Cross)

and rice to increase by hundred per cent since June 2019. Power cuts of up to 18 hours a day and reduced availability of food, fuel and medicines make people even more vulnerable and in need of urgent support. A shortage of liquid cash in the country has resulted in the use other payment methods such as eco-cash, smart cards etc., to purchase essential goods, adding further frustrations.



Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Zimbabwe Red Cross is responding to the food insecurity situation in six provinces, targeting 45,100 households. A detailed description of the interventions is provided in the table below:

Type of intervention	Geographical coverage	Targeted number of people (HHs)	Budget (USD)	Duration	Partner organisations
Phase 1: Cash Transfer through cash in transit (USD 50 equivalent)	Binga, Kariba	3000	531,000	Four months: December 2018- April 2019	Danish, British and Finnish Red Cross Societies
Phase 2: Cash Transfer through cash in transit (USD 50 equivalent)	Siakobvu/ Four wards,	1600	610,000	Four months: August 2019-Nov 2019	British, Danish and Swedish Red Cross Societies
	Binga/ Four wards	1500			
Cash Transfer cash in transit (USD 50 equivalent per HH)	Binga/ Four wards	1500	400,000	Four months: August 2019-November 2019	Finnish Red Cross
Cash transfer at USD 55 equivalent per HH	Mwenezi/ 3 wards	2000	900,000	Four Months: September - December 2019	British Red Cross
	Chipinge/ 3 wards	2000			
Provision of food- grain pulses, oil (still under consideration): Mode of support in kind only	Muzarabani, and Chimanimani	100,000 individuals to be assisted	In kind	Seven months: September 2019 – March 2019	WFP
	Binga	4500	5.1 million	Eight months:	ECHO, Finnish
	Gokwe N	4500			

<p><u>This project is not approved yet and is under consideration.</u> Main response being Cash Transfer of USD 50 Equivalent in local ZWL through mobile credited card. Complementary Activities: WASH, DRR and Livelihoods interventions.</p>	Kariba/ Siakobvu	4500		September 2019-March 2020, targeting a total of 80,000 individuals	and Danish Red Cross Societies
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External Coordination and Partnerships

Zimbabwe Red Cross is working closely with the Government and other partners with regards to the humanitarian response as well as in terms of strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities affected by the food insecurity crisis. ZRCS is working hand-in-hand with WFP to strengthen its capacity to provide cash assistance which is per the scope of the global agreement between IFRC and WFP. This initiative is supported by Finnish Red Cross and British Red Cross, as well as ECHO. Furthermore, ZRCS actively participate in the food security cluster and the cash working group. The IFRC and British RC co-chairing with FAO the Food Security and Nutrition Working (FSNWG) Group for Southern Africa sub-region.

The Government and UN launched the Revised Humanitarian Appeal in August 2019, targeting multi-sectoral priority humanitarian needs of 3.7 million vulnerable people, or about 25 per cent of the total population of Zimbabwe. The total funding requirement in the revised appeal is USD 331.5 million for the period July 2019 to April 2020. The revised appeal aims to reach the affected people through the following priority areas of interventions: Health; Food Security; Agriculture; Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); Prevention of Gender Based Violence (GBV); Education; Child Protection; Shelter and Non-Food Items; Nutrition and Early recovery. Under this Appeal, 80 organizations – including 72 NGOs and eight UN agencies – will implement activities nationally, in support of the Government of Zimbabwe's response.

Humanitarian Coordination: At Government level, a standing Cabinet committee under the stewardship of the Minister for Local Government is tasked with overseeing the Government's response efforts and liaises with the UN family through the office of the Resident Coordinator. For the UN, the Humanitarian Country Team, chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator and with the participation of the UN, NGOs, Zimbabwe Red Cross and humanitarian donors, meets bimonthly as an operational coordination forum for international humanitarian response. At the technical level, Sectors are chaired and co-chaired by the relevant line Ministries and the UN, while inter-sector coordination meetings take place regularly.

(Source: [Revised Humanitarian Appeal 2019-2020](#))

Contact information

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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 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.