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Information bulletin

Zimbabwe: Cyclone Idai

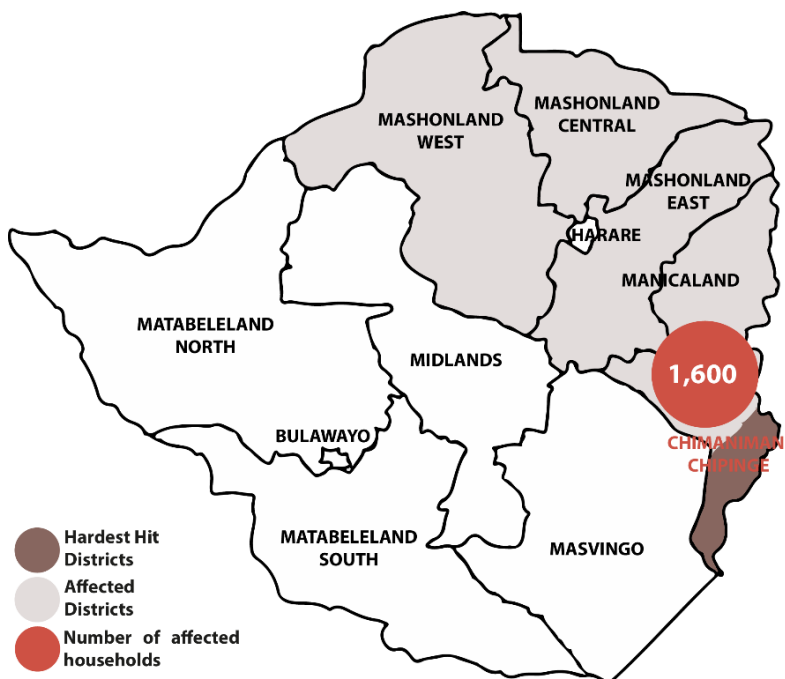
 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

IBZW15032019	Date of issue: 29/03/2019
Date of disaster: 15 March 2019	Point of contact: Karikoga Kutadzaushe, Head of Operations Zimbabwe Red Cross
Host National Society: Zimbabwe Red Cross	
Number of people affected: 53,000	Number of people to be assisted:
RCRC Movement Partners currently involved in the operation: British red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, UAE Red Crescent, Turkish Red Crescent & ICRC	
Other partner organizations involved in the operation: WFP, Italian Government, Power Bank, & South Korean Embassy.	

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is working with Zimbabwe Red Cross Society on the way to channel aid to the affected vulnerable people. At country level, the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society accepts assistance to provide support to the affected population.

The situation

While Zimbabwe was responding to a food insecurity emergency from an El-Nino induced poor rainfall season, forecasts were issued that a category 4 Tropical cyclone Idai was developing off the Mozambican coast and would head westwards towards Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. While crossing the Mozambique, Idai weakened to a tropical storm and entered Zimbabwe. Since then the remnants of storm have been causing heavy rains over Zimbabwe and Malawi. At least 172 deaths have been reported and 327 people are reportedly missing in Zimbabwe (OCHA, 27 March 2019). Cyclone Idai triggered floods in Zimbabwe, which swept away hundreds of homes in the eastern and south-eastern parts of the country. The Government declared a state of disaster in affected areas and has allocated \$RTGS 50 million for emergency response and infrastructure rehabilitation. Chimanimani, Chipinge and Mutare districts (Manicaland Province) have been the most affected. In Chimanimani, eight bridges have been destroyed. In Buhera, the Marowanyati dam has overflowed and over 5,000 people are displaced. Access to Chimanimani remains a challenge with 95% of the road networks in the affected areas having



Source: Metrological Services Department

been damaged. Access to most communities remains difficult with some still completely under water. Damaged infrastructure has rendered some places completely unreachable. At the time of the report, the Zimbabwe National Army has started clearing roads and establishing emergency crossing points for relief vehicles. Zimbabwe Red Cross were one of the first humanitarian actors to gain access to Chimanimani – one of the worst affected areas. It has been estimated that up to 16,000 HH could be displaced (8,000 HH in Chimanimani, 3,000 HH in Chipinge, 1,000 in Buhera and 4,000 HH in Mutare), however, data on this also varies. Data from the NS indicate 4,313 people are completely displaced. Red Cross assessments are on-going as more of the affected areas become accessible. Figures below summarise affected populations based on NS and government figures and for which NS response is based on.

Figures of affected population as of the 22nd of March.

Province	District	Areas	Shelter damaged	Number of deaths	Number of Injuries	Missing	Displaced	Affected Population	Infrastructure Damaged
Mash East	Chikomba		50	0	0	0	0	2000	5 Bridges
	Mudzi								3 School roofs
	Mutoko								
	UMP								
Manicaland	Chipinge	Rural areas (ward 32), Urban Ward 8	234	6	2	2	600	21000	1 bridge road networks
	Chimanimani	Chimanimani Urban Rural ward 23	200	129	138	185	3085	29000	8 Bridges power networks
	Buhera	Marowanyati, Northern Wards		1	2		529	100	
	Mutare Urban		59	0	0	0	0	180	
	Mutare Rural		189	4	2		63	1000	
Masvingo	Bikita	Bikita(Ward 10, 11,30, 23, 6, 8, 17,16, 22,2,4, 5.)	100	2	2		0	405	1 bridge
	Gutu	Gutu (ward 1)						153	
	Zaka	Zaka (ward 13, 15, 18, 33, 34)	15					100	
	Masvingo	Masvingo (13, 14)						61	
Totals			847	142	146	187	4277	53999	

Needs Assessment

Search and Rescue

ZRCS is supporting military search and rescue operations as well as evacuation of at-risk communities. However, access and logistics are challenging due to the weather conditions. Thus, there are communities that have not yet been reached. Reaching them is a priority for both the government and Zimbabwe Red Cross thus it will continue for the coming days. High numbers of people are reported missing signaling the need for reunification of family links interventions.

Shelter

Preliminary information from the Chimanimani interagency assessments indicate landslides and flood water have led to the destruction of houses. After being submerged with the continuous rainfall, the likelihood is high that returning families will not find suitable shelter and will need to work to repair and rebuild their homes. Those who have had their houses destroyed by landslides and debris will need substantial longer-term shelter support to rebuild.

Health and WASH

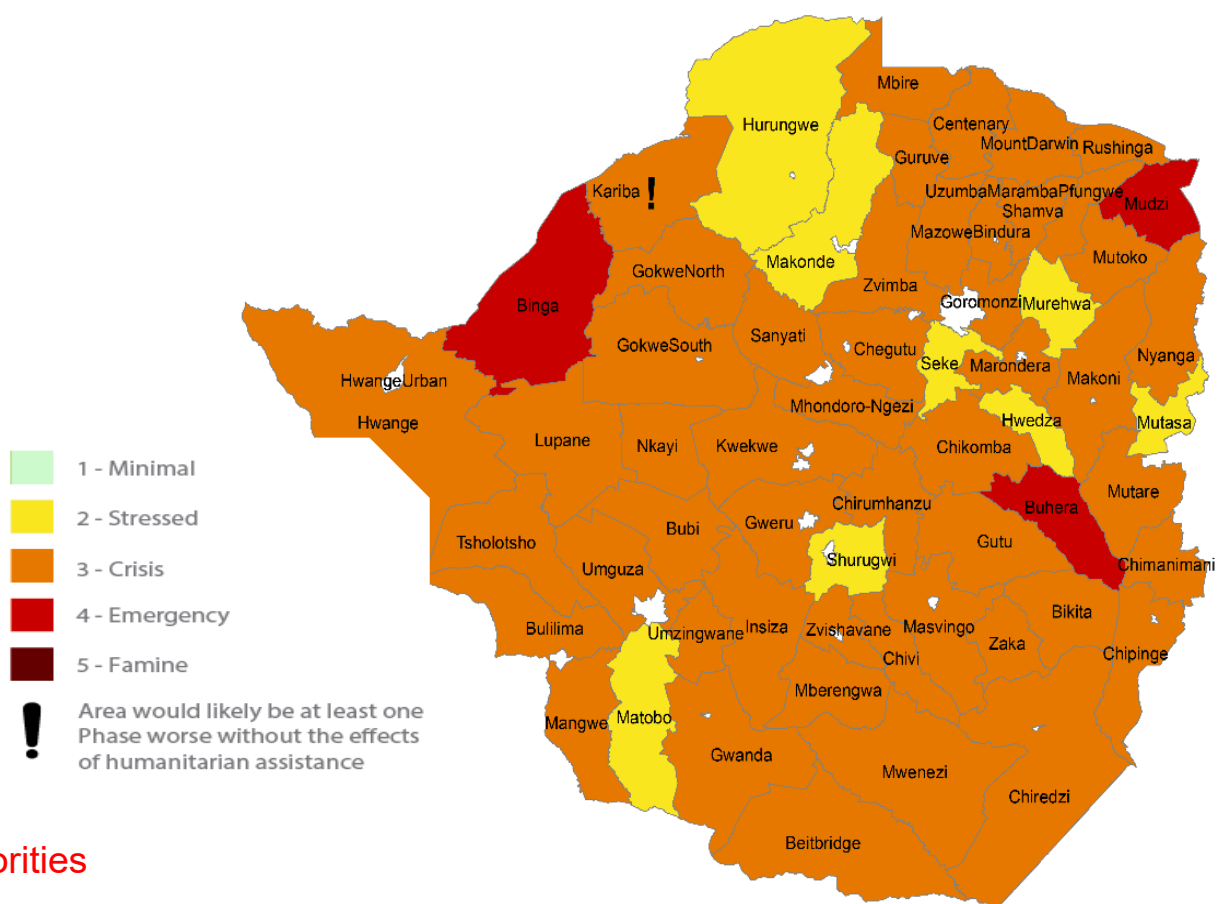
WASH and health infrastructure are reportedly flooded, contaminated or destroyed. As such there is an increased risk of malaria, cholera and other diarrheal diseases, and there is concern regarding the potential for a communicable disease outbreak. The consequences of low sanitation coverage in these areas have been exacerbated by the floods.

Health Care facilities in Chimanimani district and Chipinge District are inaccessible. ZRCS was first on the ground with a medical team deployed from the ZRCS clinic along with medical sundries. This team joined the over stretched government medical teams in treating ailments and stabilizing patients before

referrals. Temporary clinics were later set up with assistance from MSF, however more support for service availability is required including, medical supplies, fuel and staff. Cut off areas have run out of medical supplies, which is of high concern for those injured during the disaster or being impacted by its effects on sanitation infrastructure, as well vulnerable people with long-term chronic diseases that require treatment. The UN is setting up a large operational base to air lift in NFIs and food.

Nutrition

Chipinge and Chimanimani were classified as being in IPC 3 (Crisis) and Buhera district was classified as IPC Phase 4 (emergency) for the period, February – May 2019. Households which normally rely on market purchase of foods were already severely affected by prices which are currently 50% to 150% higher than the five-year average. There is likely to be continued upward price pressures during the rest of the lean season. Floods will worsen the situation and it is therefore essential that the food security situation is factored into all cyclone-related responses, including the immediate response.



Priorities

01 Search and Rescue

02 Shelter

03 Food

Other urgent needs include:

- > Family reunification
- > Safe water, sanitation and health and hygiene promotion including distribution of NFIs
- > Access to adequate latrines and other sanitary facilities
- > Household essentials including blankets, clothes and utensils
- > Psychosocial support
- > First aid and access to health services

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

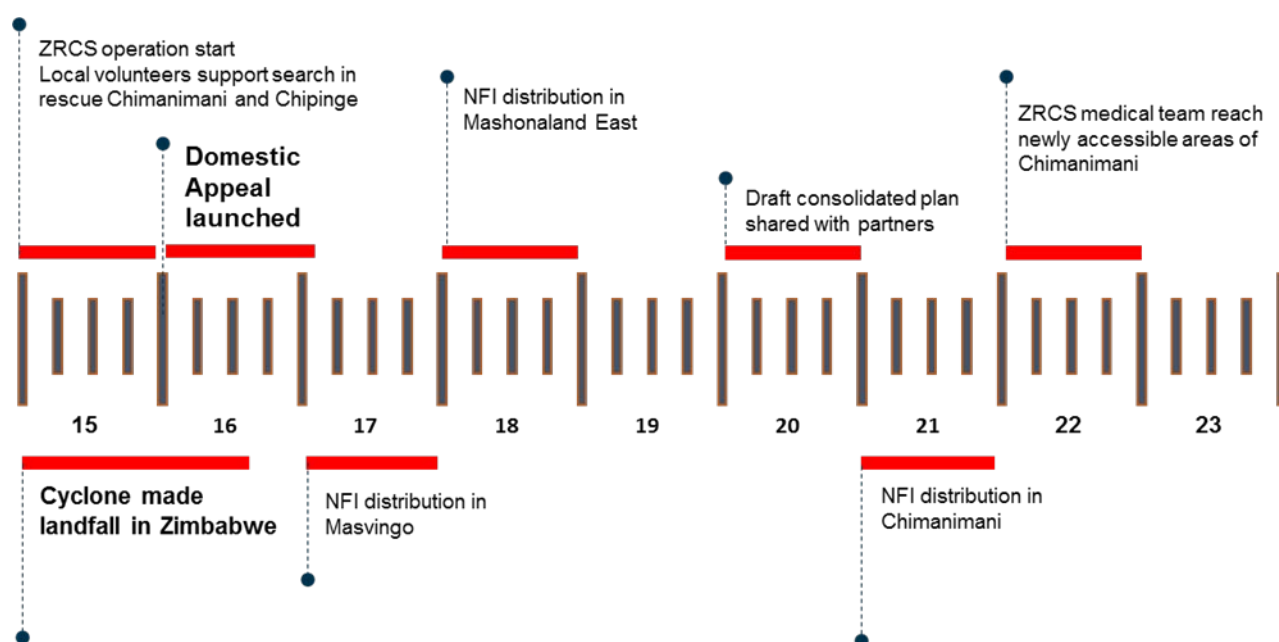
Zimbabwe Red Cross

ZRCS were ready to respond before the cyclone reached Zimbabwe. By 16 of March the NS had deployed 40 volunteers to support the most affected communities in Chipinge and Chimanimani.

The National Society is a partner for the National Civil Protection and will use its good public reputation and humanitarian space to ensure assistance reaches the affected population. Already existing capacities such as several RDRT, FACT and NDRT trained staff in WASH, Shelter, PSS have helped increase the efficacy of the planned response. At National level, the NS has since deployed 15 staff members to the affected areas to undertake detailed needs assessment, concurrently with distributions of NFIs for shelter, WASH, clothing and blankets. This initial response has been enabled by British Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross support.

ZRCS has presence in all the affected districts and most strongly in Chipinge where a resilience programme is currently running, supported by the British RC.

Figure 1: Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions



- > **Search and rescue:** Government search and rescue operations, supported by ZRCS, continue in Kopa and Rusitu areas of Chimanimani. Efforts are being made to recover mudslide and rubble covered bodies, however the process is slow due to in access. Only positively identified bodies are ferried by helicopters for burial by relatives. 18 unidentified bodies are yet to be buried. According to government more bodies are believed to have been washed down river to Mozambique.
- > **WASH:** 3,000 out of 13,000 hygiene kits have been secured and awaiting distribution. 1x10,000 collapsible tank was secured for water storage. Teams are carrying out WASH assessments in Buhera, Chipinge and Mutare.

- > **Shelter and NFIs:** Distributions have taken place in Masvingo, Mashonaland, Chimanimani, Manicaland and Chipinge. NFIs including blankets, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, soap and clothing were distributed. Over 0.8 metric tonnes of assorted food stuffs, blankets, second hand clothes and toiletries have been received for distribution.

Coordination mechanism: ZRCS are attending and convening the following meetings:

National level: (i) HCT has been activated, with the most recent meeting held on 28 March 2018. UN agencies, DFID and other NGOs are actively involved; (ii) daily coordination meetings chaired by the Department of Civil protection; and (iii) technical meetings on food security and cash.

Provincial level: Daily coordination meetings are being held, convened by the Civil Protection Committee in all three affected Provinces.

Movement: ZRCS and IFRC have been closely coordinating with ICRC, partner NS in-country and providing updates through daily situation reports.

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society conveys its gratitude to partners that have or are in the process of channeling with cash or in-kind contributions for assisting vulnerable people, in particular: International Committee of the Red Cross; the British Red Cross; the Finnish Red Cross; the Turkish Red Crescent the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, the South Africa, Botswana and Zambia Red Cross; the Government of Italy; the Embassy of South Korea; the Power bank; and to those individuals and collectives answering the national public appeal that the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society launched on 16 March.

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.