



ZAMBIA: SOLWEZI AND MPULUNGU FLOODS

No. MDRZM004

GLIDE no. FL-2007-000011-ZMB

16 January 2007

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 54,000 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by 14 April, 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

[<Click here to go directly to the attached map>](#)

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Background and current situation

Zambia has been experiencing torrential rainfall since the second week of December 2006. The rains have been particularly heavy in Mpulungu and Solwezi districts, situated in the northern parts of the country, where the resultant floods have destroyed houses and rendered hundreds of people homeless. The floods have also affected water and sanitation (WatSan) facilities in the two districts.

Solwezi District is located in North Western Province and lies about 600 kilometres from Lusaka, the capital city. A total of 15,700 households (94,000 persons) have been affected in Chawama, Zambia, Kalukungu, Highlands, Muzabula, Kayebela, Kandemba, Wisdom, Kimasala and Kizhigezhinge settlements. The floods situation has been compounded by poor housing infrastructure and poor sanitation facilities in the communities. Most houses are made of mud and the communities rely on unsafe shallow wells for water. With the collapse of the latrines, water sources are likely to be contaminated. This has posed the possibility for the outbreak of waterborne and water-related diseases such as cholera.

Mpulungu District lies on the shore of Lake Tanganyika (in the Northern Province), about 1,050 kilometres from Lusaka. Since 29 December 2006, the district has been experiencing heavy rains that have destroyed mud houses and seriously affected WatSan facilities. The total number of affected people is estimated at 21,000, of whom about 822 have been rendered homeless. 137 houses were destroyed (23 in Posa, 57 in Muzabwera, 41 in Mupata and 16 in Masende settlements) as well as about 75% of the pit latrines. The affected people are now living in temporary shelters made from material salvaged from their damaged homes. The situation is likely to worsen in the coming weeks as more rains are expected. There is thus a need to respond urgently to the plight of the affected people.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Following the flooding, Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS) branches in the Northern Province conducted a rapid assessment of the situation and forwarded a report to the headquarters. The findings of the assessment have been collaborated with those of the local authority and the National Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU).

ZRCS has 6,000 bottles of liquid chlorine (each 250ml) in emergency stocks, and these will be supplied to the affected areas to minimize chances of a cholera outbreak. CHF 54,000 has been allocated from the Federation's DREF to enable the national society (NS) to intervene. The DREF funds will be used to assist 245 of the most affected households with temporary shelter as well as water supply and sanitation facilities. Red Cross volunteers have also been mobilized to provide health and hygiene promotion activities so as to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases.

The needs

Immediate needs include: temporary shelter (in the form of family tents); community-based hygiene education and sensitization (to mitigate cholera outbreaks); domestic chlorine for water treatment (18,600 x 250 ml bottles of liquid chlorine per month for 3 months); 5 drums of granular chlorine (for treatment of wells); protective clothing for volunteers; disinfectants; transport for volunteers involved in sensitization.

In the long-term, there is a need to ensure provision of safe domestic water by drilling additional boreholes.

Coordination

The ZRCS has been coordinating with the government through the district commissioners and the DMMU on situation analysis, thus provision of official statistics. In addition, the two partners jointly assessed the needs of the affected households. The ZRCS task force formed during the cholera outbreaks in 2006 facilitated coordination and implementation of assessments.

The DMMU is mobilizing assistance from government ministries and humanitarian organizations. A formal request has been made to the Red Cross to provide tents.

Budget outline

Item	Cost (in CHF)
Sensitization on prevention	
Transportation of materials	6,098
Tarpaulins/tents	27,439
Liquid chlorine	3,970
Gumboots	915
Rain coats	1,067
Gloves	305
Ropes	915
Timber poles	1,829
Sprayers	457
Allowances for 40 volunteers	1,220
Sub-total 1	44,215
Administration	
Stationery	305
Travel for staff (transport)	4,268
Communication	305
Fuel	1,524
Sub-total 2	6,402
Programme Support (6.5%)	3,290
Grand total	53,907

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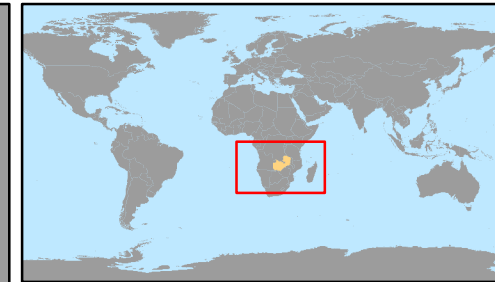
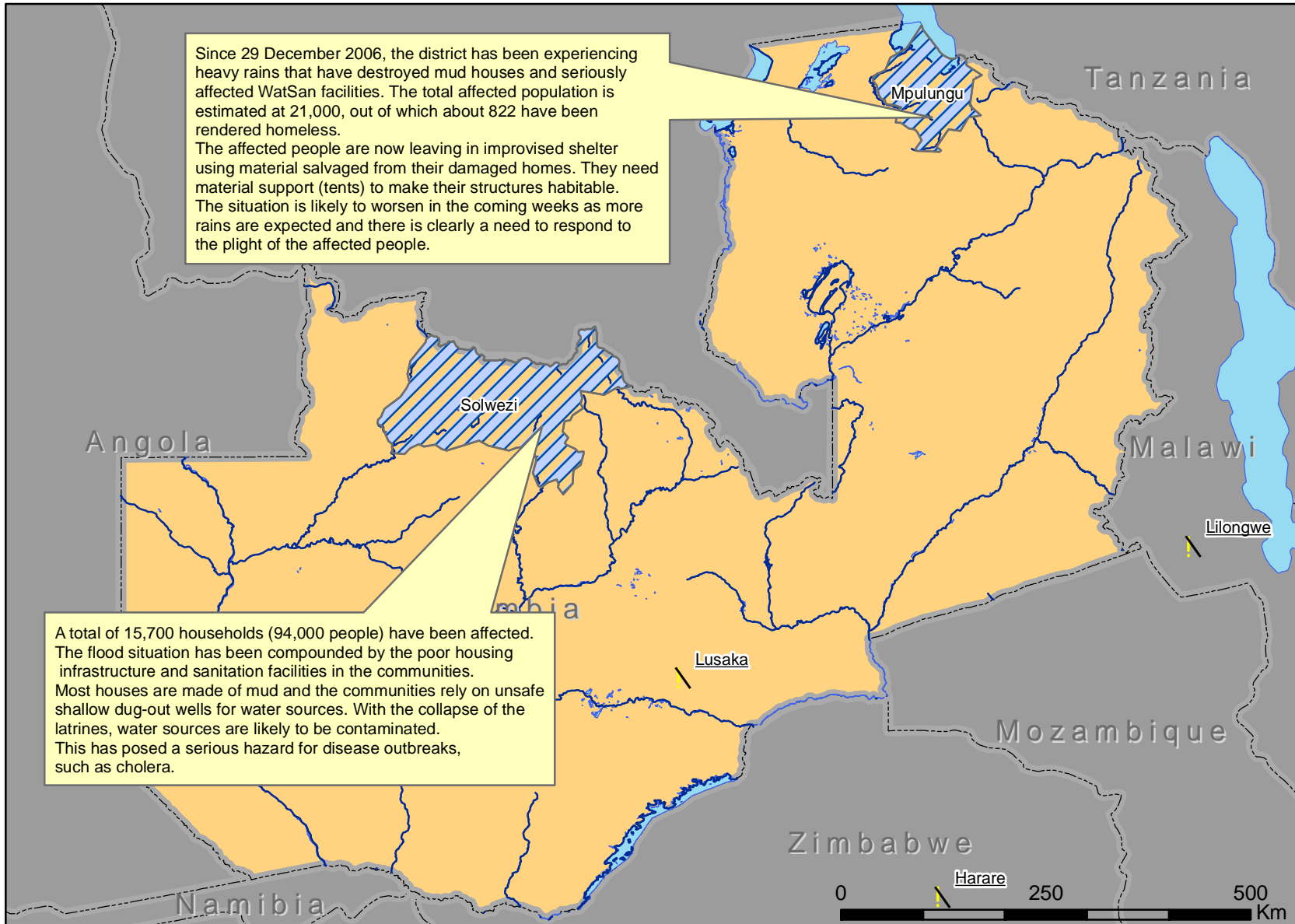
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[<Map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



Zambia: Floods



Zambia has been experiencing heavy rainfall since the second week of December 2007, especially in the northern parts of the country. Mpulungu and Solwezi districts are the most affected parts of this region. Torrential rains have destroyed houses and rendered hundreds of people homeless. The rains have also affected the water and sanitation (WatSan) facilities in the two districts.

-  Capitals
-  Affected districts

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, GIST, Federation