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# Emergency appeal operation update

## Zimbabwe: Food Security

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

### Emergency appeal n° MDRZW008

GLIDE n° OT-2013-000150-ZWE

### Operation update n°2

17 January 2014

**Period covered by this Ops Update:** This update represents a summary of 25 December 2013 – 14 January 2014 activities.

**Appeal target (current):** CHF 805,279

**Appeal coverage:** 51% [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here for contact details >](#)

#### Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on the 11 December 2013 for CHF 805,279 for seven months to assist 10,500 beneficiaries.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 80,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the national society to respond.
- [Operations Update No. 1](#) was issued on 26 December 2013



Red Cross Volunteers assisting in beneficiary selection in Nkashe Ward. IFRC, 2013

**Summary:** As of early January 2014, the Government of Zimbabwe had started importing maize from South Africa in line with the government's plan to guarantee food reserves in the country before the next main harvest in April. Seven hundred metric tonnes had arrived from South Africa as of 8 January as part of the forecasted 150,000 tonnes of grain. This is complementary to the ongoing imports from Zambia with a total of 150,000 tonnes in the pipeline, of which 10,000 tonnes having been received so far.

Over the reporting period, the Zimbabwe Red Cross continued with the selection of beneficiaries engaging key stakeholders, including the Provincial Administrator, District Administrator, Department of Social Welfare, Rural District Council (RDC), Drought Relief Committee (DRC), and target communities. To date, a total of four wards in the northern Gwanda – Datata, Nkashe, Mzimuni and Shakhe - have been recommended, following the inception meeting in Gwanda on 27 December with participation of the stakeholders and the ZRCS headquarters senior management.

Preparations for the first cash transfer are at an advanced stage, with the selection of a security agency to carry out cash transfers being finalized. The operation plans to deliver first cash transfers in the week of 27 January. An interim operations manager has been deployed by the IFRC, with support of the Netherlands Red Cross, who commenced her work in Zimbabwe on 7 January. Deployment of a permanent operations manager is being finalized with the Danish Red Cross providing a fully-funded delegate.

IFRC, on behalf of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society acknowledges contributions to this appeal from the Canadian Government/Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Red Cross of Monaco, Netherlands Red Cross, British Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross/Swiss government.

## The situation

The government started importing 150,000 metric tonnes of maize from South Africa to guarantee food reserves in the country. This is in addition to the expected 150,000 tonnes from Zambia as agreed between the two governments. The Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development indicated that 10% of the imported food will be reserved for the vulnerable groups through the Department of Social Welfare, with the rest to be distributed to the affected regions of the country for sale. Southern regions of Zimbabwe remain most-affected. The World Food Programme market monitoring informs that the supply of cereals is on the lower side throughout the country, with higher prices in rural areas. Market assessments of the Zimbabwe Red Cross in Gwanda in January indicated that while prices are higher in rural areas, local traders have sufficient food stocks.

The Zimbabwe Red Cross organized an inception meeting on 27 December in Gwanda, with participation of the ZRC headquarters (Secretary General, Operations Manager and Food Security Officer), Gwanda Branch and key stakeholders. Extensive discussions were held during the meeting with Gwanda local authorities, including provincial and district administrators, Rural District Council, District Development Fund, members of the Drought Relief Committee, and respective representatives of the Ministries (Education, Social Welfare, and Health). Key issues discussed included the status of food insecurity in Gwanda's different areas, modalities of the operation, possible target wards, processes of sensitization of communities, beneficiary selection criteria, and others.

School-feeding was raised by stakeholders as one area which should be considered by the operation, if resources allow. Particularly, targeting primary grade students would have a positive effect on nutritional status as well as school attendance. Provision of food assistance has been identified as a priority. Beneficiary selection is being done in collaboration with the Ministry of Welfare, Drought Relief Committee, District Development Fund with inputs from communities (leaders) in defining vulnerabilities and verification. The most vulnerable groups, including child-headed households, elderly, families with terminally-ill members are to be prioritized by this operation.

With regard to the modality of providing assistance for food, an analysis of advantages and shortcomings of vouchers and cash transfers was conducted. Different aspects of these two modes were examined and discussed at length internally and with stakeholders, including the speed, cost-effectiveness, accountability, security, and flexibility of choice provided to beneficiaries under each mode. It was concluded that vouchers would require a longer process in terms of selecting local traders, may incur challenges with ensuring availability of required food and flexibility for beneficiaries with procurement of needed items at the place of their choice. Cash transfers, on the other hand, have been recommended as a faster method of delivering assistance to beneficiaries, with many agencies using this mode across the country (including the World Food Programme, Concern, Oxfam, Save the Children, and many others). Zimbabwe Red Cross has also learnt from available studies that the risk of beneficiaries using cash for other items other than food is less than 2%, considering actual priority needs of vulnerable groups. The National Society will carry out intensive nutritional educational messaging as well as post-distribution monitoring tools for cash transfers to ensure proper use of cash assistance.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Zimbabwe Red Cross held a coordination meeting with in-country Partner National Societies and the IFRC on 8 January to discuss the latest developments under the Zimbabwe Food Insecurity Appeal.

Coordination with government departments continue at national and regional levels. The ZRC and IFRC had a meeting at the national level with the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Social Welfare on 10 January to discuss the planned activities. Both government agencies expressed interest and support of the ZRC operation in Gwanda.

The operation team had a meeting with the World Food Programme on 13 January to share information about the planned activities and to exchange experience in cash transfer programmes. Further coordination with the Food Security and Nutrition cluster partners will continue through established cluster coordination mechanisms.

### **National Society Capacity Building:**

IFRC and ZRCS are working together to develop a robust monitoring framework for the operation. The successful implementation of the food security operations and nutritional support has been drawn from the experience that ZRCS has had over the last five years of similar operations and also the current NSART programme, which is jointly implemented with partnership of IFRC; and funded by WFP.

IFRC and ZRCS are beginning to implement cash for cereal programme with technical support from WFP in Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland West. The national society welcomes further support from partners in terms of cash distribution monitoring, cash utilisation monitoring and commodity pricing before, during and after cash distributions thereby ensuring that the cash component of the operation is monitored and adjusted in real time.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Overview

Following the inception meeting with the stakeholders on 27 December, four wards in the northern Gwanda - Datata, Nkashe, Mzimuni and Shakhe - are being targeted by the operation. Beneficiary selection and registration is ongoing in collaboration with the Ministry of Welfare, Drought Relief Committee, District Development Fund with inputs from communities (leaders) in defining vulnerabilities and verification. Coordination with other organizations continue in the field. The Catholic Relief Services are implementing activities in the southern Gwanda, with no duplication of activities foreseen under this operation. Preparations are underway for refresher training sessions for volunteers.

Three major security companies that are specialized in delivering cash have been approached over the reporting period and further analysis has been done to assess their experience, capacity, processes and associated costs to carry out cash transfer services. Special attention was paid to the ability of the security companies to ensure cash and smaller denomination availability in Gwanda. All the security companies are insured at between US\$100,000 to US\$1,000,000 per truck/incident, and have extensive experience with similar cash transfer programmes with other NGOs. The agencies have submitted bids for consideration and finalization of the selection/contract is underway.

The cash amount to be provided for a beneficiary household is \$50 USD per household. This amount considers local costs of a food package recommended under the SPHERE standards (50 kg of cereal ~22 USD, 10 kg of pulses ~ 20 USD, 4 litres of oil ~ 8 USD). The amount was confirmed as sufficient by the ZRC recent market monitoring in Gwanda that also revealed the availability of sufficient food stocks at local markets.

### Progress towards outcomes

<b>Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)</b>	
<b>Outcome: 10,500 beneficiaries (2,100 households) receive food assistance for three months.</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
Improved food consumption for food insecure households and improved capacity of beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designing of beneficiary selection tools</li> <li>• Preparation of monthly food distribution plan and uploading of plan</li> <li>• 105 volunteers trained in beneficiary selection and managing of food distributions / voucher programme</li> <li>• Community notification of distribution date and time</li> <li>• Production and distribution of vouchers for food items (maize, pulses and oil) to be distributed over three months</li> <li>• Distribution of food vouchers to 2,100 households</li> <li>• Provide nutritional training for 2,100 households</li> <li>• Monitoring and evaluation of distribution activities</li> </ul>

**Progress:** Preparations for the first cash transfer are at an advanced stage following the meetings with security companies to discuss operational modalities. The operation plans to deliver first cash transfers in the week of 27 January.

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

<b>Outcome: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>

Access to safe drinking water for human and livestock.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35 boreholes rehabilitated with water troughs constructed/rehabilitated</li> <li>• 35 of water point committees established and trained</li> </ul>
Hygiene promotion (including key health messages) activities are carried out to target population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 105 volunteers trained in Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE or PHAST methodology)</li> <li>• Community education on health and hygiene promotion, HIV prevention, nutrition training</li> <li>• 10,500 reached with hygiene promotion messages (during distributions, house to house visits and through a drama group)</li> </ul>

**Progress:** The District Development Fund (DDF) has been sensitised and plans for assessments to identify water points for rehabilitation are in place. It has been noted during the field exercise that households are accessing water from unsafe water sources. The communities highlighted the urgent need of rehabilitation of existing boreholes to meet the need for safe drinking water.

### Agriculture and Livelihoods Support

**Outcome: To build capacity of 10,500 farmers to produce small grains and to support them in post-harvest handling of grain**

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Increased crop production knowledge and improved knowledge in small grain production and post-harvesting of grain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of small grain production in the target communities via lead farmers</li> <li>• Training in post-harvest handling and storage of grain for 105 lead farmers with consideration of cultural and gender roles</li> <li>• Training for 105 lead farmers in Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation, crop production, seed preservation, food processing and preservation, market linkage / marketing and costing for income generation, nutrition promotion, post-harvest technology</li> <li>• Facilitate dialogue between farmers and climate services providers / relevant climate sensitive agencies such as the Ministry of Agriculture, to make informed decisions on future crop planting and related activities.</li> <li>• Distribution of drought resistant vegetable seeds (to 10,500 households) including okra, onions, tomatoes, rape and kale</li> <li>• Establish and provide fencing support to be provided to five community gardens</li> <li>• Monitor good practices by households in post-harvest handling</li> <li>• Training in general livestock management since it was mentioned that livestock struggle for water as the season gets drier</li> </ul>

**Progress:** No activities done under the activity as the operation is at initiation stage at field level.

### Logistics:

The logistics unit is in the process of finalizing the selection and contract conclusion with a security company, following the meetings with the three major security companies and submission of their bids for consideration.

### Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The operation will ensure that all stakeholders including the beneficiaries are kept informed of the operation and reporting is done within the agreed timeframes. The communication team will take regular trips to the affected areas to gather data (beneficiary profiles, photos, video, web stories case studies on cash and results of livelihoods interventions to draw lessons ) and will ensure that information is disseminated using the electronic and print media.

## Contact information

### For further information specifically related to this document, please contact:

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### For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

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### For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting)

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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.
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