

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## **ZIMBAMBWE: ASSISTANCE TO THE POPULATION AFFECTED BY THE 'CLEAN-UP' EXERCISE**

18 October 2005

*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 181 countries.*

### **In Brief**

**Appeal No. 05EA016; Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: September 2005; Appeal coverage: 15.7%;**  
[\(Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website\).](#)

#### **Appeal history:**

- Launched on 26 July 2005 for CHF 2,481,818 (USD 1,788,110 or EUR 1,487,813) for 5 months to assist some 15,000 persons (3,000 households)- [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05EA016.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA016.pdf)
- Operations Update no. 1 - [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05EA01601.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA01601.pdf) dated 26 August 2005 was issued.
- This Operations Update provides a revised plan of action for the period October-December 2005, in light of funding received.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000.

**Outstanding needs: CHF 2,093,035 (USD 1,617,492 or EUR 1,344,247).**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Zimbabwe 2005 Annual Appeal no. 05AA017-**  
[http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA017.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA017.pdf)

**Operational Summary:** The relief efforts promoted by the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society and the Federation have alleviated the suffering of approximately 1,500 most vulnerable households affected by the 'clean up' exercise, particularly those of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), orphans and other children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS (OVC) and those who sought shelter in holding camps (in June and July 2005). However, at the onset of the rainy season, the needs of most households affected by the 'clean up' exercise remain largely unmet. Combined with the effects of a drought that severely impacted on the 2004/05 agricultural season, the capacity of the affected households to cope with the situation is limited.

**To date, the appeal has received 15.7% coverage and further donor support to meet the needs of the targeted 3,000 households is encouraged. An extension of the current emergency operation is envisaged- should the pledged funding be received after the end of October 2005.**

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*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation’s website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

### **Operational developments**

The ‘clean up’ operation- started by the government of Zimbabwe in May 2005- was concluded in July 2005, when operation ‘Garikai/Hlalani Khulhe’ (operation stay well) was launched. Under operation ‘Garikai/Hlalani Khulhe’, construction of shelter for the families affected by the ‘clean up’ operation is planned by the government of Zimbabwe. Most of affected people- scattered all over Zimbabwe- are seeking opportunities for resettlement; some in the government designated areas, other in rural areas and others by being hosted by families and relatives within the cities. This phenomenon is negatively affecting the most vulnerable, especially OVC and the chronically ill people, who in the process can hardly access basic services such as medical care, shelter, food, water and sanitation. The situation is worsened by the general economic decline currently being experienced in Zimbabwe, the protracted fuel shortage crisis and the effects of the drought experienced during the 2004/05 agricultural season-resulting in a poor harvest.

Currently, the people affected can be classified into the following categories:

- The people who went to rural areas directly from where they were removed and those who initially went to holding camps and later moved to rural areas. According to recent reports from the Mashonaland, Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South provinces Red Cross branches, some of these families are returning to urban areas. Initial reports and verifications portray changes in the whereabouts of the same families as of September 2005 since their coping mechanisms and safety nets have been drastically reduced. Several households have been contacting the national society’s provincial offices seeking for assistance, mostly in the form of food and other basic requirements- like shelter.
- The households that remained camped within illegal settlements (previously demolished), such as in Epworth, Hopley, Hatcliffe and White Cliff suburbs- in Harare, Victoria Falls, Gwanda, Beitbridge and Bulawayo. Assistance to this group presents operational challenges because of the government directive of assisting only those within designated areas and with housing development approved by the city councils. Most of the households in this category are destitute, with increasing difficulty in meeting their basic needs and with very little capacity to look into strategies to access accommodation schemes. Some children in these illegal settlements are malnourished due to lack of adequate food and have no proper communication channels to present their problems and needs.
- The households that will benefit from the housing being constructed in designated areas and those who have been allocated stands by local authorities. These families currently use basic infrastructure of very low standard for shelter. While some of them are on the government’s waiting list, the progress of the construction of the houses is slow due to alleged constraints such as lack of fuel and building materials. It is estimated that only a few are going to benefit from the programme compared to the high numbers of households affected by the ‘clean up’ exercise.

### **Red Cross action**

Emergency Appeal no 05EA016 was launched on 26 July 2006 for CHF 2,481,818 million to provide assistance to 15,000 vulnerable people for a period of five months. It followed the release of CHF 100,000 from the Federation’s Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 10 June 2005. With the DREF allocation, the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society<sup>1</sup>- with support from the Federation- was able to offer initial assistance by providing relief items to meet the basic needs of 1,400 vulnerable households within the holding camps in all the provinces. Between May and July 2005, the Red Cross distributed blankets, kitchen sets, soap and jerry cans. It also provided portable toilets for use in transit camps.

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<sup>1</sup> Zimbabwe Red Cross Society- <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=13>

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Following the dismantlement of the holding camps in July, the Red Cross continued to ensure the availability of safe drinking water for the affected (by distributing water purification tablets to 1,500 households) and improved hygiene (by conducting hygiene education in the newly designated area of Hatcliffe, Harare).

The national society is still constructing five two-bed roomed houses for the identified most needy child-headed vulnerable households. The houses will be ready for occupation by mid-October 2005. Property titles for the land have been granted by the councils concerned.

As part of livelihood recovery programme, 1,000 households in rural areas are receiving seeds and fertilizers.

### **The needs**

Based on the assessment carried out by the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society teams, the following needs have been identified and require further assistance:

- Shelter remains a priority for most households, including those who relocated to rural areas. The chronically ill and OVC are most at risk. This situation is worse in Victoria Falls, Beitbridge, Harare and Bindura which are the areas with the largest affected populations.
- Lack of food has been registered to be on the increase among people who went to rural areas as their safety nets (of the host communities) are unable to cope with the extra demand. As a result, people are returning back to the urban areas to try to improve their coping mechanisms. The lack of food is also crippling within the urban centres, particularly in households that have been depending on selling products at open markets. It is estimated that over 3,000 households in urban areas are unable to meet basic food requirements. The situation has increased school drop-out rates among children as parents can no longer afford to pay school fees. The Federation, in cooperation with the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, will be launching a Food Insecurity appeal for Southern Africa region in the course of October 2005. The food security needs will be addressed through long-term funding mechanisms.
- A large number Red Cross home-based care (HBC) clients in Matabeleland and Mashonaland provinces were affected as they were displaced from their contactable residential addresses. A significant proportion of such clients, who went to rural areas, are unable to benefit from the HBC services. Their need for food, medication and other basic amenities are increasing by the day.
- Limited number and availability of market stands in urban councils affect the recovery capacity of most of the affected households. Alternative opportunities for income generation need to be met.

### **The proposed plan**

According to a recent assessment conducted by the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society and the Federation, the rapid increase of vulnerability is creating a situation of emerging poor households in both rural and urban communities, as the current safety nets are unable to cope with the magnitude of the problem. The situation is also worsening due to the drought situation that is being experienced country wide. In order to avert the situation from getting worse, it is imperative for the operation to embark on mitigation and recovery activities to complement the current coping mechanisms of affected households.

The climatic and geographical conditions of the Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South provinces are semi arid and dry. Rather than focusing on agricultural schemes, livestock development is the most viable means to improve livelihoods. The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society is targeting to distribute small livestock to 200 households that relocated to rural areas in Beitbridge and Victoria Falls areas. Basic training in livestock farming needs to be organized, in conjunction with agricultural extension officers within the area. In Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Midlands and Manicaland provinces- where crop farming is viable, the Red Cross is distributing seeds and fertilizers to 1,000 households in order to stimulate rural livelihoods.

The majority of people affected have been sustaining their livelihood through small scale trading. In order to recover the loss of income affected by the destruction of open markets, there is a need to construct more open market in legally designated areas- in urban contexts. The local councils of Gwanda and Victoria Falls identified designated areas but were unable to be developed due to lack of funding. The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society endeavours to lobby for the reconstruction of open markets and allocation of start-up capital to vulnerable groups. The national society is targeting women and households made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in the affected urban areas.

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For the period October to December 2005, the Red Cross operation will focus on immediate delivery of humanitarian assistance in the form of specifically targeted beneficiaries in rural and urban areas. The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society will undertake the overall coordination and implementation of the operation with its volunteers, in close cooperation with public authorities and other stakeholders. The Federation will provide technical support, operations updates, and financial and narrative reports- in line with Federation standard requirements. The proposed activities presented below are in consideration of the prevailing needs and capacity of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, with technical support from the Federation, to deliver realistic services within the indicated timeframe. With regards to the original set of interventions (outlined in Emergency Appeal 05EA016<sup>2</sup>), some modification has been made to better respond to emerging needs and the unfolding situation. The changes are highlighted below:

**Emergency Relief: Shelter and non-food items**

**Objective: Immediate relief items to 15,000 vulnerable people are provided.**

**For the period October to December 2005, funding is sought to carry out the following activities:**

- Provision of 5,000 blankets for vulnerable individuals and households affected by the ‘Clean-up’ operation.
- Construction of 20 two-roomed permanent houses for OVC in designated areas by December 2005.
- Support 200 OVC with school fees in the four most affected provinces.

**Health and hygiene promotion**

**Objective: Health and hygiene among the affected people are provided.**

**For the period October to December 2005, funding is sought to carry out the following activities:**

- Recruitment and training of 80 volunteers in health education promotion, protection and psychological support in the newly designated settlement areas- prior to providing permanent water sources and sanitary facilities.
- Provision of 5,000 tablets of soap to affected people, particularly OVC and the chronically ill.

**Water and Sanitation**

**Objective: The risks for outbreak of water borne diseases among the affected population are minimized.**

**For the period October to December 2005, funding is sought to carry out the following activities:**

- Provision of 5,000 impregnated mosquito nets.

**Livelihoods**

**Original Objective: Start-up seed packs vouchers (agric-inputs) to 3,000 households who are relocated to new areas are provided.**

**Revised Objective: Support 1,200 households in rural areas and 100 HBC clients and their care providers in urban areas to ensure self-reliance through agricultural interventions.**

**For the period October to December 2005, funding is sought to carry out the following activities:**

- Completion of the provision of 1,000 seed packs and fertilisers to 1,000 households who relocated to rural areas in Mashonaland Central and Manicaland Provinces.
- Distribution of 800 goats to 200 households in the rural areas of Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South provinces.
- Establishment of income generation activities to sustain ten support groups consisting of 100 HBC clients and care givers in urban areas of Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South and Mashonaland Central provinces.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?05/05EA016.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA016.pdf)

## **Capacity of the national society**

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society is engaged in responding to needs with its entire structure that comprises:

- All eight provincial offices and presence in 57 districts with country wide network of 38 000 volunteers.
- Community-based developmental programmes: livelihoods and food security activities in 27 districts; HBC and OVC support in 27 districts; Water and sanitation projects in 30 districts and HIV/AIDS prevention activities in 57 districts.
- A humanitarian mandate which is well- recognized, understood and respected by the government and other stakeholders.
- Support by the Federation in resource mobilization, synergies creation and coordination.

## **Capacity of the Federation**

The Federation regional delegation in Harare provides technical support to the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society through a relief coordinator positioned at the national society. The relief coordinator facilitates the liaison between the regional delegation and the national society and provides technical support in monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the operation. The regional delegation provides support for external advocacy and coordination with the partner national societies (PNS), the Federation headquarters in Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other stakeholders supporting the Zimbabwe emergency appeal.

## **Monitoring and evaluation**

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society is responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the whole operation using the existing structures within the provinces. The SPHERE<sup>3</sup> minimum standards and other international humanitarian standards are being used in the monitoring and evaluation. To enhance speedy communication and free flow of information, email and internet services within the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society will be improved at all levels. Operations updates and financial and narrative reports will be provided on regular basis. The implementation of this operation has a three months timeframe and the final report (narrative and financial) will be submitted by end of February 2006. The Federation regional delegation will ensure quality control in terms of overall monitoring and evaluation.

*[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)*

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.sphereproject.org/>

# Zimbabwe - Assistance to the population

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA016

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

14/10/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,481,818	TOTAL COVERAGE 15.7%	
BRITISH - PRIVATE DONOR/RC		25,000	GBP	56,500	01.08.05	
CHINA - HONG KONG RC BRANCH		4,540	HKD	731	07.09.05	
FINNISH - RC		50,000	EUR	77,400	29.07.05	
ICELANDIC - RC		250,000	ISK	4,900	26.08.05	
JAPANESE - RC		62,900	USD	80,952	05.08.05	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	168,300	28.07.05	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				388,783	CHF	15.7%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	