

# Operations update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Zimbabwe: Food Insecurity

Period covered by this Operations Update  
1 October 2008 – 23 November 2008;

Appeal target (current): CHF 27,727,566 (USD  
26,837,020)

**Appeal coverage:** 20%, however the emergency operation received significant donor support over the reporting period, with several pledges still to be confirmed.

[<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

### Appeal history:

As a result of the rapidly deteriorating critical food security situation in Zimbabwe, a preliminary emergency appeal for CHF 27,755,314 (USD 26,837,020) was launched on 6 August 2008 for nine months, to support 260,100 people infected or affected by HIV and AIDS across the country. The

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) will issue the final emergency appeal within the next six weeks,

taking into consideration factors such as the global increase in the price of food commodities, fluctuations in beneficiary figures and minor operational adjustments necessary to meet the most basic needs of the vulnerable people. Based on these factors and after the confirmation of the soft pledges and WFP contract, the budget will be revised upwards accordingly.

### Summary:

The IFRC launched the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) food insecurity emergency appeal against the backdrop of a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation. The food insecurity situation has worsened since the preliminary appeal launch in August 2008 as a result of a combination of factors including limited supply of agricultural inputs and supporting infrastructure, unpredictable climate conditions and a souring socio-economic environment. Most Zimbabweans are struggling to survive on day-to-day basis.

October marked the second month of the IFRC supported ZRCS food security operation. Despite the operational challenges food ration was distributed in 23 of the total 26 targeted districts, except Nkayi, Chimanimani and Zvimba districts. WFP provided three food commodities (maize, beans, cooking oil), whilst corn soya blend (CSB) was jointly provided through WFP and IFRC pipeline. With support from the partner National Society (PNS) the IFRC has procured food and seeds/fertilizers items delivered during this reporting period. Distribution of agricultural starter packs started in October and was completed by end of November 2008.

Emergency appeal n° MDRZW003  
GLIDE JT-2008-000097-ZWE  
Issued 3 December 2008  
Operations Update No.4



Maize meal being carried home after ZRCS October food distributions in Mashonaland West

ZRCS progressed in the recruitment of staff for the operation whilst the IFRC Secretariat is providing technical support through the Country Representation office. The programme coordination and PMER delegate positions are being covered temporarily by technical staff. Plans are underway to conclude the recruitment process. A relief delegate has finally been recruited. The IFRC also enhanced its capacity building efforts by coordinating a two-day workshop on PMER in collaboration with WFP. A total 60 participants, including all existing and new ZRCS/IFRC food security staff attended the workshop.

A WFP Field Level Agreement (FLA) is ready for signing by both parties, whereby WFP agreed to provide a total of 29,462,000 metric tonnes (MT) food in all districts over the first two months of the operation, and from November 2008 to May 2009 all food in 16 districts, whilst the IFRC pipeline would provide food in the remaining seven districts up to 31 May 2009. Two districts covered by this appeal in September and October would receive food from another WFP cooperating partner from 1 November, bringing the total of districts covered by the IFRC/ZRCS to 23.

In addition to the substantial in-kind donation from WFP, the emergency operation received significant donor support over the reporting period, with several pledges are confirmed, including the joint procurement of food and agricultural starter pack items supported by the Danish and Finnish Red Cross. However, the remaining soft pledges are crucial to enable IFRC procure food required to keep the pipeline fluid. Funding support is also required to ensure the completion of the livelihood/training component and initiating the water and sanitation (WatSan) aspect of this operation. The need for WatSan intervention has increased following the recent country-wide outbreak of cholera and the near collapse of the WatSan infrastructure and water reticulation system in the country.

## The situation

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and WFP joint crop and food supply assessment (CFSAM) of June 2008, estimated that the total number of food insecure people in rural and urban areas would be 3.8 million between October and December 2008. This figure is expected to rise to 5.1 million people between January and March 2009, representing just under half of the total population.

In October, WFP distributed food to two million people, of whom 220,000 (i.e. 11 percent) were reached through the IFRC/ZRCS food insecurity emergency operation. WFP was planning to scale-up its safety net programme, which is linked to the Red Cross HIV and AIDS home-based care (HBC) and orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) programme. However, it is reported that due to limited funding for WFP's operation in Zimbabwe, rations for all its programmes were reduced in size for November, with no food in the pipeline at all for January 2009.

Anecdotal evidence collected by the IFRC and other humanitarian actors highlights a worsening food insecurity situation, with coping mechanisms being depleted as food scarcity increases. Zimbabweans are apparently not just cutting down on the number of meals per day to often one meal or even less, but also eating more wild fruits, such as baobab pods, hacha and marula (mapfura), and some are reported to be dispersing their last household assets. Based on the findings from a recent IFRC field trip in Chimanimani in Manicaland Province, a 20 kg bag of maize meal was selling for ZAR 200 (CHF 23), which is out of the reach of an average Zimbabwean, with no access to foreign currency. Due to the continuous devaluation of the local currency it has been reported that retailers located in the remotest rural areas have resorted to selling their commodities in foreign currencies (mainly ZAR and USD). As a result, the purchasing power of the majority in these poverty stricken remote areas has been severely eroded.

## Coordination and partnerships

During October and the first half of November the IFRC/ZRCS made great efforts in scaling-up the coordination mechanism with other humanitarian organisations at headquarters, provincial and district levels. Coordination is fundamental for this operation in order to ensure an effective management of beneficiaries and distribution plans among all agencies. Some new agencies were registering beneficiaries in October for the first time since the March 2008 elections and resuming distributions the same month, with a massive humanitarian scale-up planned to meet over five million people by January 2009.

After discussions on the operation between Africare, another WFP partner and the IFRC, the beneficiary lists are being shared. It was also decided that Africare would provide food for the entire caseload of beneficiaries in the two districts of Buhera and Zvishavane, although all other services to ZRCS HBC and OVC beneficiaries would continue as normal. Other discussions and sharing of beneficiary lists with another WFP partner, World Vision in Nkayi District, resulted in the IFRC/ZRCS retaining their caseload of beneficiaries in terms of food aid since Red Cross is an established partner in the wards and is doing targeted food distribution as opposed to vulnerable group feeding which World Vision is conducting.

Therefore, the stakeholders' discussions on beneficiary lists led to a more coordinated approach, evidenced by WFP and the IFRC/ZRCS dividing the pipeline into different areas of support, as outlined in the Table 1 below.

**Table 1: ZRCS HBC/OVC Food Security Programme Pipeline coordination and division**

Province	Districts with food provided by WFP's pipeline.	Districts with food provided by the IFRC's pipeline	Districts with food covered by Africare
Masvingo	Chivi and Masvingo	Mwenezi	-
Matabeleland North	Dete and Victoria Falls <sup>1</sup> , Nkayi	-	-
Matabeleland South	-	Beitbridge, Gwanda, Matobo	-
Midlands	Lower Gweru, Shurugwi	-	Zvishavane
Manicaland	Chimanimani Chipinge, Marange	-	Buhera
Mashonaland Central	Bindura Chitungwiza, Mt Darwin	-	-
Mashonaland East	Murehwa	Marondera, Mudzi,	-
Mashonaland West	Hurungwe, Kariba, Zvimba	Kadoma	-
<b>Total</b>	16 districts	7 districts	2 districts

As highlighted above, it was agreed that WFP's pipeline would provide food in 16 districts from November 2008 to May 2009, with the IFRC pipeline providing food in seven districts. WFP's goods in kind donation is estimated to provide 29,462 MT food estimated to be around CHF 18 million, with additional secondary transport costs (from the IFRC warehouses to the food distribution points) and administration/staff costs worth a further CHF 5,367,400, bringing the estimated WFP budget to CHF 23 million.

**Table 2: Summary of financial contributions (CHF)**

Donor	Confirmed Pledges (CHF)	Bilateral Pledges (CHF)	Soft pledges (CHF)
British RC	603,000	-	-
Belgium RC	-	-	785,000
Danish RC	-	2,148,017	-
Finnish RC	153,860	1,457,235	-
German RC	564,507	-	-
Japanese RC	193,800	-	1,094,000
Monaco RC	39,250	-	-
New Zealand RC	804,000	-	-
Swedish RC	2,992,740	-	-
French Govt/RC	-	-	1,413,001
Paarl Media SA	33,900	-	-
Online Donations	52,606	-	-
Australian RC	47,100	-	-
Norwegian RC	-	-	1,416,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,484,763</b>	<b>3,605,252</b>	<b>4,708,001</b>

The IFRC was also working closely with Danish and Finnish Red Cross on joint procurement of food and seeds/fertilizer starter packs. The Danish Red Cross deployed a delegate on 22 October to support ZRCS by covering food distribution funded through Danida in Beitbridge and Gwanda districts.

<sup>1</sup> Dete and Victoria Falls are now consolidated into one district, hence the reduction in number of districts.

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

ZRCS recruited new food security officers bringing the total to 17 for this operation. In addition, food security reporting and WatSan officer are being recruited at the National Society. The IFRC Country Representation is also in the final stages of recruiting for the two outstanding delegate posts and as indicated above, two delegates are acting (programme coordinator and PMER delegate). The relief delegate position has now been filled. The country office has also scheduled interviews for local position (WatSan officer and senior logistics officer) in the last two weeks of November. Three warehouse officers and three commodity tracking officers were recruited for the three new warehouses beginning of October, which enhanced the capacity in warehousing. The country office has also procured 18 lap-top computers and 25 mobile phones for the National Society.

A WFP IFRC/ZRCS joint two-day food security workshop was conducted in Harare on 6 and 7 November for 60 participants, including all current and new IFRC/ZRCS staff. The workshop was focusing on how to improve capacity in PMER, particularly reporting in line with WFP standard guidelines. The workshop initiative was as a result of prior reporting and communication challenges encountered in September and October as a result of low capacity in the relief operation. Another reason was to orient new and existing staff. As a result, WFP reporting guidelines have been streamlined, internalised and a comprehensive field monitoring system agreed to be in place by the end of October. A special training session was held for key staff members of the IFRC/ZRCS on WFP reporting at the end of October (in addition to the two-day workshop). Although the level of reporting required would remain very demanding the IFRC/ZRCS felt confident that reporting would be more efficient for the remainder of the programme period.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

### **Beneficiary figures verification**

ZRCS is continuously adjusting the total number of beneficiaries who are also under its HIV and AIDS programme. The National Society is accounting for HBC client weaned and moving out of the programme (due to death/moving to another area/getting work, etc) and the new enrolled beneficiaries (OVC whose parents died, new HBC clients and their household members etc). Due to the ever-increasing humanitarian needs, pressure is being exerted on the ZRCS HBC/OVC programme, with beneficiaries desperately in need of food, seeds and fertilizers, which have been very expensive for them on the local markets.

The IFRC/ZRCS, with support and guidance from the WFP, has agreed to conduct a beneficiary verification exercises at all food distribution points (FDPs) in order to ascertain the exact beneficiary numbers. This has been an on-going exercise and WFP is coming in as a stakeholder and the IFRC is supporting the process with all parties involved for transparency purposes. The verified people will not only benefit from the food/nor the process being done for food but for the entire HBC package which is the entry point of this project. The verification exercise ensures that the HBC clients and OVC meet the medical and socio-economic criteria. A joint WFP/IFRC/ZRCS team will conduct this exercise planned to start in the first half of December 2008. Whilst the distribution of agricultural inputs continued in November, food will be distributed based on the verified data, except for Nkayi district in Matabeleland North, which underwent a pilot beneficiary verification exercise in October. The Nkayi district results demonstrated that HBC clients and OVC broadly met the medical and social/economic criteria. The HBC clients' household numbers were found to be higher than anticipated but OVC households are lower. Therefore, the OVC household members' beneficiary figure was reduced downwards.

ZRCS also carried out an internal verification exercise in Matabeleland South Province. As a result, all the beneficiary lists have been revised in Matobo District and one FDP in Gwanda. Also, as noted above, discussions between Africare and the IFRC/ZRCS resulted in Africare providing food for the entire caseload of ZRCS beneficiaries in the two districts of Buhera and Zvishavane, although all other services to HBC/OVC beneficiaries continue as normal.

**Table 3: Summary of revised beneficiary figures  
(between original appeal launch and November verification)**

District	Explanation	Original Figures	New Figures	Variance
Nkayi	Joint Stakeholder verification	23,606	16,862	6,744
Zvishavane	Caseload <u>transferred</u> to Africare	3,510	0	3,510
Buhera	Caseload <u>transferred</u> to Africare	19,791	0	19,791
Gwanda	ZRCS Internal verification	18,682	17,882	800
Matobo	ZRCS Internal verification	22,356	19,104	3,252
<b>Total</b>		<b>87,945</b>	<b>53,848</b>	<b>34,097 (reduction)</b>

The reduction in targeted beneficiaries is also attributed to the effective transfer of a caseload to other agencies in two districts (Africare). Therefore, the emergency operation beneficiary target is being revised from 260,100 to 226,690 in November during the finalisation of the appeal.

## Food Aid (Relief distributions)

**Objective:** To meet immediate food needs of 260,785 vulnerable people (52,020 households) for nine months through monthly food distributions in targeted areas until the next harvesting season.

## Progress

### Transport and warehouses

The IFRC/ZRCS, based on a second Competitive Bid Analysis conducted in early October, contracted three transport companies for the delivery of food items. This was after challenges with the results of the initial one. Due to the magnitude of the operation, the individual companies have no fleet capacity to cover the whole operation. The IFRC had also facilitated the renting of three warehouses in Harare, Bulawayo and Masvingo, but WFP had some reservations with these. The IFRC has since found new warehouses in Harare and Bulawayo and additional warehouses are being sought for WFP stock and for Manicaland Province (Mutare). The aim is to prevent delays in the movement of relief items.

### Food distributions

The second round of food distributions commenced on 16 October and to a larger extent completed by end of month, with some activities carried forward to the beginning of November as a result of hiccups in warehousing and transportation. Chimanimani district was mostly delayed due to lack of 10 MT trucks for use in the small rough roads in the mountainous region. However, the distributions were completed by 17 November. In Zvimba district three FDP received no food and two others only received cereals due to the same issues. Beneficiaries from Nkayi District did not receive food in October due to the pilot verification exercise and the distribution has been scheduled for the last two weeks of November.

**Table 4: October distributions (food items)**

Province	Beneficiaries		Cereal (MT)	Pulses (MT)	Oil (MT)	CSB (MT)	Total MT
	HBC/HH	OVC/HH					
Masvingo	13,723	10,132	286.26	42.94	14.38	71.57	415.15
Matabeleland North	8,230	8,451	248.39	37.26	12.42	62.10	360.16
Matabeleland South	11,977	39,296	620.57	92.29	30.76	153.82	897.39
Midlands	4,015	10,948	179.56	26.93	8.98	44.89	260.36
Manicaland	4,259	48,640	516.80	68.09	24.47	85.01	694.34
Mashonaland Central	7,890	11,932	237.86	35.68	11.89	59.47	344.94
Mashonaland East	3,968	12,264	194.78	29.22	9.89	48.70	282.60
Mashonaland West	8,603	26,109	381.12	58.02	19.00	75.15	658.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>62,665</b>	<b>167,772</b>	<b>2665.34</b>	<b>390.43</b>	<b>131.64</b>	<b>600.71</b>	<b>3912.85</b>

HBC/HH = Home-based Care Client and households. OVC/HH = Orphans and other vulnerable children and households.

As a result of the CSB (50 percent) provided by the IFRC, complementing WFP's three commodities, the beneficiaries received a full ration of food in October. The 435 MT of CSB provided by the IFRC is being treated as a loan to WFP and will be returned to the IFRC/ZRCS for their own pipeline.

### Procurements

The IFRC/ZRCS procurement process has been efficient. Danish and Finnish Red Cross provided funding support of CHF 3 million on food procurement. The delivery is also well planned in order to avoid over-filling the warehouses. To date, the following food items have been ordered:

- Maize – 3,132 MT (4.5 months supply)
- CSB – 782 MT (3.7 months supply)
- Beans – 470 MT (6.7 months supply)
- Cooking oil – 153 MT (3.7 months supply)

Food for the districts covered by the IFRC's pipeline will be sufficient to cover minimum of 3.7 months provided the beneficiary figures remain fairly static and WFP's pipeline is full. There is a need to also make new orders next month in order to ensure consistency in IFRC distribution plan. In addition, the global food prices are increasing and will definitely influence the budget revision.

### Agricultural Production and Livelihoods Recovery

#### Objectives:

- To build agricultural recovery and stabilise household food production of 100,930 people (20,186 households) through distribution of agricultural inputs, strengthening community seed banks and supporting agricultural management for nine months.
- To establish sustainable systems which protect livelihoods through diverse interventions to improve household income, food security, nutrition status and self sufficiency of 128,500 people (25,700 households) for nine months.

#### Progress:

Funds incoming from the appeal were challenged towards the purchase of all seeds and fertilizers for 20,186 HBC client and OVC households, as reflected in **Table 5** below.

**Table 5: Seeds and fertilizer procurement for the Agricultural Starter Packs**

Procured Seeds/fertilizer	MT	Packs
Maize Seeds	198.95	
Sorghum Seeds	159.46	
Ground nut seeds	100.93	
Sugar beans seeds	100.93	
Rape, cabbage, tomato, okra, carrot, pumpkin	-	20.186
Fertiliser (ammonium nitrate)	994.6	
Fertiliser (Compound D)	1412.25	
<b>Total Procured</b>	<b>2967.12</b>	<b>20,186</b>

The type of agricultural starter pack was varied between the different project sites taking into consideration the rural or urban setting, climate and terrain. The model packs were as indicated below:

- 10kg maize seed; 10kg sorghum; 5kg beans; 5kg groundnuts; mix packs of vegetable seeds.
- 100kg ammonium nitrate fertilizer; 50kg compound D fertilizer.

Distributions of the starter packs started in October and will continue into November before the rain season. The ZRCS is considering rolling out a training programme on seed preservation and storage, better farming techniques including conservation farming, market linkages and vegetable processing for its beneficiaries. Discussions have also commenced on the procurement of 600 goats (three goats for 200 families) to be distributed early 2009. The procurement of small livestock is recommended to be at district level in respect of the disease control and regulations. Recipient households will also be trained on animal husbandry, whilst 100 specific projects such as bee-keeping, mushroom production are targeted for 1,000 people in 2009.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

**Objective:** To improve access of households to safe water and health and hygiene promotion for 3,000 vulnerable households (15,000 people) in 26 project sites

### Progress

The rehabilitation of 200 water points and the accompanying Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) training, targeting 15,000 community members and training of 200 water point committees in community-based management of the water points, to ensure sustainability is planned to commence in January 2009. In the meantime, IFRC/ZRCS are recruiting WatSan officers for the emergency operation.

### Summary of Overall Operational Challenges:

- Due to WFP being unable to store their food in the IFRC/ZRCS hired warehouses, trucks had to pick-up food directly from WFP and deliver to the FDPs. It resulted in queuing for up-to five days, thus negatively affecting the distribution plan. However, the IFRC has identified new warehouses, therefore this problem is negated.
- Due to the magnitude of the operation/cost per km offered, no single transport company could provide transport for all 106 FDPs. In addition, there were instances where incomplete loads of commodities were delivered, thus further causing delays in distributions.
- Since the operation does not allow for the storage of any food at the FDP, it has to be distributed on arrival. In instances where the food has had to be stored due to the late arrival of trucks or other circumstances, ad hoc solutions have been used.
- Whilst there has been progress in October/November, the IFRC/ZRCS requires continuing strengthening field level coordination, particularly on beneficiary listing. The list of beneficiaries will be continuously shared with among stakeholders in order to avoid duplications.
- Verification of beneficiaries is time consuming and requires proper planning and sufficient resources. Therefore, IFRC/ZRCS envisages the availability of financial and human resources in order to ensure a swift countrywide exercise.
- A lack of field level relief reporting and system was evident at the start of the operation and combined with extremely complex and heavy reporting requirements from WFP, there were delays in reporting. It was also a challenge to follow-up with transport companies on waybills, which are required for WFP invoicing. Many of these problems have been overcome through training on WFP reporting guideline and hiring of additional staff.
- The IFRC faced human resources challenges with only one of the four required food security operation delegates was engaged over the reporting period. The other gaps have been temporarily covered by engaging two acting delegates for coordination and PMER.
- The poor telecommunication network and dwindling power supply across the country affects communication between IFRC Country Representation office and field-based staff.
- The ever-changing national financial regulations also heavily affected the implementation of the planned emergency activities. Many companies are now demanding transacting in foreign currency although access from the bank is limited, in addition to dealing with restrictive regulations.

### Communication:

Media coverage on the food security situation in Zimbabwe and the Red Cross response operation has been favourable. Some news agencies such as Al Jazeera, BBC, Agence France Press and IRIN News have been covering on the food crisis as well as the Red Cross action in the field. A special section on Zimbabwe has been developed on the IFRC website. Please visit [www.ifrc.org/zimbabwe](http://www.ifrc.org/zimbabwe) for more information on the operation, including photos, audiovisual material and feature stories.

## How we work

***All International Federation 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 is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.***

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

## Contact information

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**[<Updated donor response report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)**

**Donor response to MDRZW003 - Zimbabwe - Food Insecurity**

TIMEFRAME: 06 Aug 08 to 06 May 09

LOCATION: Zimbabwe

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	27,755,314
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	5,492,890
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	20%

Updated on: 01 Dec 2008

Currency	Amount	Goal 1: Disaster Management CHF	Goal 2: Health and Care CHF	Goal 3: Capacity Building CHF	Goal 4: Principles and Values CHF	Coordination CHF	Total CHF
<b>BUDGET</b>							<b>27,755,314</b>
<b>FUNDING</b>							
<u>Opening Balance</u>							
<b>Income</b>							
<b>Cash contributions (received and pledged)</b>							
Austrian Red Cross	EUR	30,000	44,623				44,623
British Red Cross	GBP	300,000	603,000				603,000
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)	EUR	98,000	153,860				153,860
German Red Cross	EUR	38,665	57,511				57,511
German Red Cross (from German Government)	EUR	347,984	517,602				517,602
Japanese Red Cross	JPY	20,000,000	193,800				193,800
Monaco Red Cross	EUR	25,000	39,250				39,250
New Zealand Red Cross (from New Zealand Government)	NZD	1,200,000	798,297				798,297
On Line donations	CHF	2,597	2,597				2,597
Portugal - Private Donors	EUR	6	9				9
South African Red Cross (from Paarl Media)	ZAR	300,000	39,600				39,600
Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)	SEK	18,600,000	2,992,740				2,992,740
Unidentified donor	CHF	50,000	50,000				50,000
<b>Total Cash contributions</b>			<b>5,492,890</b>				<b>5,492,890</b>
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>5,492,890</b>				<b>5,492,890</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>			<b>5,492,890</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,492,890</b>
<b>COVERAGE</b>							<b>20%</b>