

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Zimbabwe: Food Insecurity

Emergency appeal n° MDRZW003
GLIDE JT-2008-000097-ZWE
20 January 2009
Operations Update No. 5

Period covered by this Operations
Update: 24 November 2008 – 19 January
2009;

Appeal target (current):
CHF 27,755,314 (USD 26,837,020)

Appeal coverage: 38% (confirmed),
however the emergency operation received
significant donor support over the reporting
period, with further donor support
expected.

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

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially
launched on a preliminary basis on 6
August 2008 CHF 27,755,314 (USD
26,837,020) for nine months to assist
260,787 beneficiaries infected or affected by HIV and AIDS in Zimbabwe.
- A final emergency appeal will be issued by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), taking into consideration factors such as the global increase in the price of food commodities, results of the beneficiary verification exercise conducted in December 2008 and other operational adjustments necessary to meet the basic needs of the vulnerable people. After the confirmation of soft donor pledges and signing of the field level agreement (FLA) with the WFP, the budget will be revised accordingly.

Summary:

The preliminary food insecurity emergency appeal was launched in response to the critical food security shortage in Zimbabwe, which is compounded by other socio-economic factors. The supplies of agricultural inputs, equipment and fuel have been erratic while prohibitive costs (in foreign currency) have also made farmers unable to cope. Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) supported by the IFRC Country Representation Office has since distributed food in the 26 targeted districts. Food distributions were briefly stopped in November and December to give way to a beneficiary verification exercise. The WFP food pipeline provides cereal, pulses and vegetable oil, whilst corn soya blend (CSB) is being procured jointly by WFP and IFRC.

In the FLA between WFP and IFRC yet to be signed, the WFP has agreed to provide food aid for the 26 districts over the first two months of the operation and for 16 districts from November 2008 to May 2009; the remaining seven will be covered by the IFRC. Buhera and Zvishavane districts initially covered by the IFRC/ZRCS in September and October are now receiving food relief from Africare (another WFP cooperating partner). Victoria Falls and Dete districts have been consolidated into one district and this has reduced IFRC/ZRCS targeted districts to 23.



Zimbabwe Red Cross volunteers at one of the food
distribution points in Mashonaland East Province

Although the food security emergency operation continues receiving donor support, which has increased by 18 per cent since the last update issued on 3 December 2008, total coverage is required to ensure ZRCS meets the needs of the food insecure targeted population.

The situation

According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and WFP joint crop and food supply assessment (CFSAM) conducted in June 2008, it was estimated that almost half of the country's population would be affected by food insecurity (5.1 million people). Household coping mechanisms are severely depleted with some people reducing the number of meals per day to one, while some having absolutely nothing to eat. Although the previous update reported that some people were resorting to eating wild fruits, most of these are now out of season and deforestation has further exacerbated their scarcity.

Many households are also selling personal assets in order to alleviate the dire food shortages by getting income to buy basic food items mainly from informal traders. However, these families have become victims of unscrupulous traders who are taking advantage of their desperate situation, by inflating prices in hard currency terms. For example, there were reports of cattle being traded for as little as two bags of maize in some rural areas. Throughout the country especially in rural areas, food commodities are overpriced and being sold in foreign currency (USD and ZAR) due to the continued devaluation of the local currency. This makes it difficult for the average person with no access to foreign currency to purchase these commodities.

Coordination and partnerships

Coordination among Red Cross Movement components and with other humanitarian organisations at headquarters, provincial and district levels has ensured effective management of the operation. The stakeholders have been effectively sharing information and of late, the beneficiary lists were shared with Africare, which prompted them to absorb the entire case load of beneficiaries in Buhera and Zvishavane districts, although all other services to Red Cross HBC and OVC beneficiaries continue as planned. After liaising with World Vision (another WFP partner) in Nkayi district, it was decided that the IFRC/ZRCS retain their caseload of beneficiaries in terms of food aid since Red Cross is the well established partner at district level. Therefore, coordination between stakeholders regarding beneficiary lists has resulted in a more coordinated approach, as evidenced by the division of the food pipeline into different areas of support, outlined in the Table 1 below.

Table 1: ZRCS Food Security Programme: Pipeline coordination and division

Province	Districts with food provided by the WFP pipeline.	Districts with food provided by the IFRC pipeline	Districts with food covered by Africare
Masvingo	Chivi and Masvingo	Mwenezi	-
Matabeleland North	Dete and Victoria Falls ¹ , 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	-
Total	16 districts	7 districts	2 districts

As highlighted above, it was agreed that WFP's pipeline provide food in 16 districts from November 2008 to May 2009, whilst the IFRC provides food in seven districts. WFP's goods in-kind donation is estimated to provide 29,462 MT of food estimated to cost over CHF 18 million, with additional secondary transport costs (from the IFRC warehouses to the food distribution points) and administration/staff costs of over CHF 5 million. This brings the estimated WFP budget to more than CHF 23 million.

The IFRC/ZRCS also worked closely with Danish and Finnish Red Cross on joint procurement of food and agricultural starter packs (seeds/fertilizer). The Danish Red Cross deployed a delegate to coordinate bilateral support (CHF 756,200) to ZRCS, which covers procurement and distribution of food relief and related operational costs funded through the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) in Beitbridge and Gwanda districts.

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

National Society Capacity Building:

ZRCS has made progress in the recruitment of staff for food insecurity emergency operation. A food security assistant has been recruited at the ZRCS headquarters, while positions for 12 new provincial food security officers have been filled with four positions still open (which will bring the total to 16, two per province for this operation). Recruitment is also being concluded for PMER and Water and Sanitation (WatSan) officers to be based at the National Society headquarters.

The IFRC Secretariat is providing technical support through the Country Representation office. The recruitment of a food security programme coordinator is being concluded and a relief delegate was recruited at the beginning of January 2009. The IFRC Country Representation office is still interviewing candidates for the following positions; WatSan officer, senior logistics officer and two drivers. Three warehouse officers and three commodity tracking officers were recruited for the three IFRC food security warehouses at the beginning of October, which enhanced the capacity in warehousing. A total of 18 lap-top computers and 25 mobile phones were procured for the National Society for use in the food security operation.

As a result of the WFP and IFRC/ZRCS joint two-day food security workshop conducted in Harare on 6 and 7 November 2008 for new and existing IFRC/ZRCS staff which focused on improving PMER capacity, reporting guidelines were streamlined and a comprehensive internal field monitoring system was developed to ensure efficiency in reporting until the end of the operation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Beneficiary figures verification

ZRCS continuously adjusts its beneficiary register under its HIV and AIDS programme in order to account for HBC clients who are removed from the programme (due to death/moving to another area/improved health status, over-age OVC, etc) and the newly enrolled beneficiaries (children of deceased HBC clients, 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 in desperate need of food, seeds and fertilizers which are very expensive on the local markets.

A joint WFP and IFRC/ZRCS team conducted a beneficiary verification exercise in December 2008 in all the districts covered by the food security operation. The exercise conducted at the food distribution points (FDPs) aimed to verify the actual beneficiary figures. All three stakeholders (ZRCS, IFRC and WFP) were involved in the process for purposes of transparency and consistency. The results of these countrywide verifications are being compiled by ZRCS and will be shared with all stakeholders.

The verified beneficiaries will benefit not only from the food relief but also from the entire package of Red Cross HBC services (the entry point beneficiary selection under this operation). The verification exercise also ensures that the HBC clients and OVC meet the medical and socio-economic criteria. Whilst the distribution of agricultural inputs continued in November 2008, food will be distributed as from January 2009 based on the verified beneficiary data. The process had already been piloted in Nkayi in October 2008.

Food Aid (Relief distributions)

<p>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.</p>

Progress:

Transport and warehouses

The IFRC/ZRCS, based on a second tender conducted in October 2008, contracted three transport companies for the delivery of food items, after facing operational challenges with the former transporter. Due to the magnitude of the operation, individual companies do not have fleet capacity to cover the whole operation, hence the three were contracted. New warehouses have been leased in Harare (Mashonaland Province) and Bulawayo (Matebeleland Province) and an additional warehouse has been identified in Mutare (Manicaland Province). The decentralisation of warehousing facilities will minimise delays in distribution due the shortened distances to the distribution points, which are at district level.

Food distributions



ZRCS supported by the IFRC Country Representation Office distributed food in 26 districts in September and in 23 out of 26 districts in October. Distributions in the remaining three districts - Nkayi, Chimanimani and Zvimba - were completed in the first week of November, just before the beneficiary verification exercise. Some operational challenges in the pipeline led to the delayed distributions. For the rest of November and December, there were no food distributions as mentioned earlier, due to the beneficiary verification exercise except for Nkayi where verification had already been conducted in October. The food distributions in Nkayi reached 14,280 people through the distribution of cereals 142.67MT, pulses 14.27MT, oil 8.56 MT and Corn Soya Blend 42.80 MT, through four distribution points.

Procurements

Food procured by the IFRC will be sufficient to cover approximately five to six months of distributions in the areas covered by IFRC/ZRCS provided the WFP pipeline is constant and also taking into account the expected decrease after the beneficiary verification. Danish and Finnish Red Cross have provided bilateral funding support for food procurement. Global food prices continue to increase and this will have a major impact on the revision of the budget.

The following food items have been ordered by the IFRC Country Representation office:

- Maize – 3,132 MT (6 months supply)
- CSB – 1542 MT (3.7 months supply)
- Beans – 592 MT (6.7 months supply)
- Cooking oil – 353 MT (3.7 months supply)

The IFRC supply stock as of the appeal beneficiary figure has maize for six months, but stock for 3.7 months for the additional beneficiaries.

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 channelled towards the purchase of seeds and fertilizers for 20,186 HBC client and OVC households, as reflected in **Table 4** below.

Table 4: Seeds and fertilizer procurement for the Agricultural Starter Packs

Procured Seeds/fertilizer	MT	Packs
Maize Seeds	201.86	
Sorghum Seeds	161.85	
Ground nut seeds	100.93	
Sugar beans seeds	100.93	
Rape, cabbage, tomato, okra, carrot, pumpkin	-	20,186
Fertiliser (ammonium nitrate)	992.32	
Fertiliser (Compound D)	1,394.66	
Total Procured	2,952.55	20,186

Agricultural starter packs varied between the different project locations taking into account the rural or urban setting, climate and terrain. The model packs are 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 are expected to be concluded by the end of January 2009. Plans are underway to roll-out a training programme on seed preservation and storage, better farming techniques including conservation farming, market linkages and vegetable processing for beneficiaries. The procurement of 600 goats (three goats per family) to be distributed early 2009 is underway. The procurement of small livestock will be at district level to avoid complications with disease control regulations. Recipient households will be trained on animal husbandry, whilst 100 region-specific projects such as bee-keeping and 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

Rehabilitation of 200 water points, training of 15,000 community members on Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and training of 200 water point committees on community-based management of the water points is planned to commence by the end of January 2009. These activities will be facilitated by WatSan officers to be recruited for the ZRCS and IFRC offices (for this operation).

Operational Challenges:

- Recruitment of skilled staff has been a challenge due to the short-term contracts and lack of which has affected the implementation of some of the activities, particularly on capacity building.

Communication:

Media coverage on the food security situation in Zimbabwe and the Red Cross' response to the emergency has been favourable with news agencies such as Al Jazeera, BBC, Agence France Press and IRIN News covering 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 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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Donor response to appeal MDRZW003 - Zimbabwe - Food Insecurity

TIMEFRAME: 06 Aug 08 to 06 May 09

LOCATION: Zimbabwe

TOTAL AMOUNT SOUGHT:	27,755,314
TOTAL RECEIVED TO DATE:	10,524,792
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	38%

Updated on: 19 Jan 2009

	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	
BUDGET								27,755,314	
FUNDING									
Opening Balance									
Income									
Cash contributions									
Austrian Red Cross	EUR	30,000		45,662				45,662	
British Red Cross	CHF	-84		-84				-84	
British Red Cross	GBP	300,000		603,000				603,000	
Finnish Red Cross	EUR	198,000		301,114				301,114	
French Government	EUR	900,000		1,369,863				1,369,863	
German Red Cross	EUR	386,649		583,919				583,919	
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	NZD	1,196,363		793,660				793,660	
Norwegian Red Cross	NOK	6,926,538		1,046,178				1,046,178	
On Line donations	CHF	4,067		4,067				4,067	
Portugal - Private Donors	EUR	6		9				9	
South African Red Cross	ZAR	300,000		39,600				39,600	
Swedish Red Cross	SEK	18,600,000		2,992,740				2,992,740	
Switzerland - Private Donors	EUR	50		79				79	
Unidentified donor	CHF	50,084		50,084				50,084	
Total Cash contributions				8,062,940				8,062,940	
Inkind Goods & Transport									
Belgium Red Cross (Flanders)	EUR	594,080		893,085				893,085	
Finnish Red Cross	EUR	928,165		1,422,911				1,422,911	
Finnish Red Cross	USD	124,693		145,857				145,857	
Total Inkind Goods & Transport				2,461,852				2,461,852	
Total Income				10,524,792				10,524,792	
TOTAL FUNDING				10,524,792	0	0	0	0	10,524,792
COVERAGE			38%	0%	0%	0%	0%	38%	