

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

ZIMBABWE: Food Insecurity

Emergency appeal n° MDRZW003
GLIDE JT-2008-000097-ZWE
Operations Update No. 7
08 June 2009

Period covered by this Operations Update
1 March – 31 May 2009;

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

Appeal coverage: 41%. no further funding support is
required as the World Food Programme (WFP) is
covering the balance of the costs.

[<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 6 August 2008 for CHF 27,755,314 (USD 26,837,020) on a preliminary basis over nine months to assist 260,787 beneficiaries infected or affected by HIV and AIDS in Zimbabwe.
- The emergency appeal target was revised to reach 198,360 people, and took into consideration the global changes in food commodity price and other operational adjustments necessary to render effective assistance to the most vulnerable, such as the extension of the appeal to September 2009.

Summary:

Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS), with in-country technical support from the IFRC Country Representation Office, have been implementing an emergency food security operation since September 2008. The operation is targeting beneficiaries of the community home-based care (CHBC) programme and their families in 23 districts throughout the country's eight Provinces. The main components of the operation include food relief distributions, livelihoods interventions such as the distribution of agricultural inputs, water and sanitation (WatSan). The food component is supported by the WFP pipeline in 16 targeted districts, whilst the IFRC is covering the remaining seven districts.

The food security operation target was revised to 198,360 beneficiaries following a beneficiary verification process conducted in December 2008 by a joint IFRC/ZRCS/WFP team. Of the total beneficiaries, 136,708 are being provided with food relief under the WFP pipeline while 61,652 are covered under the IFRC pipeline.



Gogo (grandmother) MaGumbo and her
grandchildren at Magoli FDP, Matebeleland
North

The unavailability of agricultural inputs to most subsistence and commercial farmers for the 2008/2009 rainy season will worsen the food shortage, as already projected by the FAO/WFP food assessment. In order to ensure a food safety net and longer-term livelihoods interventions, ZRCS deem it necessary and appropriate to extend the operation until the end of September.

The IFRC will not appeal for further funding (in support of the ZRCS operation) since current resources are adequate until September 2009; thus the appeal timeframe is being extended (no-cost extension) after 6 May by five months to September 2009. The budget has been revised based on the available funds and taking into consideration a reduction in food prices. In addition, the WatSan component needs more time to complete the planned activities bearing in mind the fact that delays were caused by sharing human resources with the Cholera operation concurrently being implemented by ZRCS. A review is anticipated in the third quarter of 2009 to determine the extent to which food security interventions will continue.

The situation

The food insecurity situation in Zimbabwe is the worst ever recorded in the country's history and remains a major challenge for the majority of the population. The situation has been worsened by the breakdown of service delivery systems and other socio-economic factors; the country is facing serious socio-economic decline and humanitarian crises since 2000. The capacity of the government to import food is constrained by soaring food prices and the unavailability of foreign currency. The prohibitive price of food commodities and other basic products and services make the general populace more vulnerable, thus increasing the need for humanitarian assistance.

The vulnerability is compounded by the impacts of climate change such as unpredictable weather, poor crop yields especially since the country is predominantly a subsistence agriculture economy, plus delays in implementing the land reform programme. The country's food crisis was also made worse in recent months by a cholera outbreak that claimed over 4,274 lives and infected over 98,114 people.¹ Zimbabwe has become the world's third largest food aid operation, after Afghanistan (8.82 million) and Ethiopia (8.67 million), and ahead of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (5.58 million) and Bangladesh (5 million).

According to the WFP Country Office, the number of people in need of food increased to almost seven million receiving food assistance during the peak lean season until the expected harvest in April/May 2009. A joint FAO and WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission in June 2008 had initially estimated that in the first quarter of 2009, 5.1 million people would require food assistance. UN agencies, the Ministry of Agriculture and various humanitarian organisations have been collecting data on agriculture and food security indicators at field level to reflect the 2009 harvest and predict expected crop yield for next year. The findings of a food security assessment carried out jointly by FAO/WFP, whose results were released in May 2009, forecasts a food deficit in the period 2010-2011. Following this forecast, efforts will be directed at ensuring that vulnerable communities in high risk areas continue to receive food and livelihood support.

However, with the relaxation of restrictions on private sector trade, food is slowly becoming available on the market. From mid-February, the maize crop that had been planted by mid December, estimated by the Ministry of Agriculture to cover 82 percent of the total area planted with maize, began contributing to food supplies for rural households who were able to plant by this time. Other food crops, such as pumpkins, groundnuts, and cowpeas are also increasingly available. However, the scaling down of food relief at the end of March by most organisations is expected to reduce food access by those vulnerable households without the capacity to produce their own food. Nevertheless, limited purchasing power of most poor urban households continues to constrain their food access, despite a significant fall in prices of basic foods since November 2008.

Coordination and partnerships

The ZRCS food security operation benefits from an agreement with WFP, in which WFP provides food relief that is distributed by the Red Cross. WFP also pays for related operational costs. Although the Field Level Agreement (FLA) signed between IFRC and WFP is in effect until May 2009, discussions are underway on an extension until the end of September 2009. A budget and proposal on the extension were submitted to WFP by 30 May 2009. ZRCS/IFRC continues to coordinate their efforts with WFP and other stakeholders to avoid an overlap.

¹Ministry of Health and Child Welfare Rapid Disease Notification System – Daily Cholera Update 13 May 2009

Within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, this operation is supported bilaterally by the Belgian, Danish and Finnish Red Cross Societies through in-kind food aid and technical support. ZRCS, supported by the IFRC, is the lead agency in this operation. IFRC also provides technical support in implementation, resource mobilisation, donor relations and coordination. ZRCS conducts regular coordination meetings attended by all operational partners and the ICRC, and has thus far had full compliance from local authorities. As such, a ZRCS led food security meeting was held in Kadoma on 26 and 27 May 2009 where the IFRC, Danish and Finnish Red Cross Societies attended the second session. The items for discussion included WatSan, livelihoods, partnership coordination, reporting and monitoring.

ZRCS liaises on key technical matters with organisations such as FAO and WFP. Officers from the Agricultural Research and Extension Services (AGRITEX) provide information and training. ZRCS and IFRC participate in the Agriculture Coordination Working Group (ACWG), which is made up of different agencies including WFP, UNICEF, AGRITEX and the Zimbabwe Civil Protection Unit (CPU).

National Society Capacity Building:

ZRCS relies on its wide network of volunteers and is dependent on their community-based activities to meet the needs of vulnerable communities. ZRCS has a long experience in working with communities and has a widespread network of branches, thus has significant presence in all Provinces of the country. For this operation, volunteers have been identified and trained for the agricultural recovery programme and have been actively involved in disseminating information and monitoring household level activities.

The National Society has taken an integrated approach in order to achieve a holistic service to the beneficiaries, at the same time capitalising on the varied expertise embedded in its various programmes. The ZRCS' food security programme is well staffed and is made up of a food security and livelihoods (FSL) programme officer, assistant FSL officer and two programme assistants, skilled in programme management, agronomics and data management. FSL officers in all provinces work with the district and ward levels together with provincial programmes officers.

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) unit which is focused on building the capacity of staff and volunteers to effectively track progress and has achieved impact-based reports, developed a database and documentation on best practices. The IFRC, FAO, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture also provide technical assistance in joint monitoring and evaluation processes.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Based on the evolving needs and capacity of the implementing partners, this operation has been extended to end by September 2009. ZRCS continues to assess the situation as it evolves and is prepared to increase its reach if needed, depending on its capacity, identified needs of affected communities and the work of other humanitarian and governmental stakeholders. The CHBC programme continues as an entry point for this emergency food security operation, as mentioned above, targeting clients and their families. Operating through its network of trained community-based volunteers, ZRCS assist 16,762 chronically ill people as well as 49,519 orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) and their households through 25 CHBC project sites in the country's eight provinces. Therefore, the Red Cross volunteers will continue supporting a total of 198,360 people throughout the extended timeframe of this food security operation.

Prior experience has prompted the necessity to incorporate longer-term interventions during emergency operations in order to mitigate future vulnerabilities through enhanced community coping mechanisms and strengthened the capacity of Red Cross volunteers. Thus, in addition to meeting immediate needs through food distributions, the operation is also implementing livelihoods and WatSan interventions.

Food Aid (Relief distributions)

Objective: To meet immediate food needs of 198,360 vulnerable people (39,672 households) for 13 months through monthly food distributions in targeted areas.	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved nutrition status of beneficiaries Safety-net provided for vulnerable households Assisted children have improved capacity to concentrate at school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute food packs to 198,360 vulnerable people and their households in rural and urban areas. (Food packs are based on WFP standard of 2,100 Kcal per person per day). Monitor and evaluate relief activities and report on relief distributions.

Progress:

The May 2009 food distributions were completed around the 23rd and went on well as planned. Discrepancies in beneficiary figures still poses challenges in several areas and ZRCS is working at resolving the issues before the June distributions, in order to ensure accuracy in invoicing and reporting, more importantly to the WFP. The CHBC clients were given blankets from the HIV and AIDS programme, which have been kept in a Harare warehouse for almost two years due to lack of funding for distribution.

Agricultural Production and Livelihoods Recovery

Objectives:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build agricultural recovery and stabilise the household food production of 100,930 people (20,186 households) through distribution of agricultural inputs, strengthening community seed banks and supporting agricultural management for 13 months. Establishment of sustainable systems that protect livelihoods through diverse interventions to improve household income, food security, nutrition status and self sufficiency of 128,500 people (25,700 households) for 13 months. 	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in area under agricultural production. Improved access to agricultural inputs in the next farming season. Increase in household food production. Livelihood projects are implemented in line with country strategic plan. Cost effective input usage. Significant increase in yields. Improved nutritional status of beneficiaries. Improved household income. Improved household food security. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train beneficiaries on seed selection, preservation storage. Train beneficiaries on better farming techniques such as conservation agriculture. Conduct, conservation farming trainings with technical support from AGRITEX benefiting 2,500 people (500 households). Train 60,000 people (12,000 households) in nutrition garden management. Distribute vegetable seeds (five varieties) benefiting 128,500 people (25,700 households). Install low cost water pumping technologies i.e. 500 treadle pumps. Conduct 50 training sessions in market linkage and vegetable processing. Provide 300 families (1,500 people) with two goats each. These households are trained on animal husbandry and the goats are passed on to an additional 300 households (who in turn will do the same), three months after their first set of kids. Implement in different region specific projects such as beekeeping, mushroom production, aquaculture and crafts, based on viable project proposals and feasibility assessments (100 projects benefiting 1,000 people in total in each region). Provide 100 water troughs at water points for domestic animals.

Progress:

Vegetable seeds were distributed in April 2009 as planned. The IFRC country representation office deployed staff to monitor the distributions at 90 percent of the 99 distribution points. A monitoring tool developed by the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) department, in cooperation with ZRCS, was piloted during the May distributions. Thus the distribution method has improved and trained helpdesk personnel are in place in most areas.

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 six districts.	
Expected results	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to sustainable safe and adequate water for both human and animal consumption Improved behaviour change through hygiene promotion activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitate 198 water points (hand pumps and apron). Conduct 50 Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) trainings targeting 15,000. Form and train 198 water point committees in community-based management (CBM). Conduct Livelihoods Framework Approach Programming workshop. Conduct Workshop on climate change adaption.

Progress:

Preparations for WatSan activities under the livelihoods component are underway with site identification having been done in Dete and Buhera districts. The same will be done in Beitbridge and Chivi districts. All materials necessary for WatSan interventions have been procured.

Communication:

Red Cross response efforts and interventions have received very positive coverage in the local media and with international news agencies including Al Jazeera, CNN, BBC, Agence France Press and IRIN News. A special link for Zimbabwe was developed on the IFRC's website (www.ifrc.org/zimbabwe) for further information, including photos, audiovisual material and feature stories.

A 20-minute documentary on the food security situation and the interventions in Chivi, Mwenezi, Lower Gweru, Dete, Mwami, Nkayi and parts of Mashonaland Central is being produced. In addition, six case studies and two web stories are also being produced and these, together with the documentary, will be used to provide an ongoing profile of the work being done by ZRCS and the Red Cross Movement.

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:

- **In Zimbabwe:** Emma Kundishora, Secretary General, Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, Email zrcs@ecoweb.co.zw; ekundishora@comone.co.zw, Phone: Tel: +263.4.332638; +263.4.332197; Fax +263.4.335490
- **In Zimbabwe:** Stephen Omollo; Country Representative, Zimbabwe Country Representation, Harare; Email stephen.omollo@ifrc.org .Phone: Tel: +263.4.705166; +263.4.720315, Fax +263.4.708784
- **In Southern Africa Zone:** Françoise Le Goff, Head of Zone Office, Johannesburg; Email françoise.legoff@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9711; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
- **In Geneva:** John Roche, Operations Coordinator, Email: john.roche@ifrc.org; Phone: +41.22.730.4400; Fax: +41.22.733.03.95

For pledges towards this operation:

- **In Southern Africa Zone:** Laurean Rugambwa; Resource Mobilisation Coordinator, Johannesburg; E-mail zonerm.southafrica@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230

For media enquiries:

- **In Southern Africa Zone:** Matthew Cochrane; Communication Coordinator, Johannesburg; Email matthew.cochrane@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; Mobile: +27.83.395.5266; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230

For Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) enquiries:

- **In IFRC Southern Africa Zone:** Theresa Takavarasha; PMER Manager, Johannesburg; Email terrie.takavarasha@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; Mobile: +27.83.413.3061; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230

For mobilization of relief items and Logistics inquiries:

- Regional Logistic Unit in Dubai; Peter Gleniste; Regional Logistics Coordinator; Email: peter.gleniste@ifrc.org; Phone: Tel: +971 4883 3887

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

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRZW003 - Zimbabwe - Food Insecurity

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/8-2009/5
Budget Timeframe	2008/8-2009/5
Appeal	MDRZW003
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	27,755,314					27,755,314
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>Austrian Red Cross</i>	45,662					45,662
<i>Belgium Red Cross (Flanders) (from Belgian Federal Government)</i>	35,725					35,725
<i>British Red Cross</i>	602,916					602,916
<i>British Red Cross (from Great Britain - Private Donors)</i>	62,343					62,343
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>	303,471					303,471
<i>French Government</i>	1,369,863					1,369,863
<i>German Red Cross</i>	45,576					45,576
<i>German Red Cross (from German Government)</i>	410,187					410,187
<i>Japanese Government</i>	1,185,818					1,185,818
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	193,800					193,800
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>	39,250					39,250
<i>New Zealand Red Cross (from New Zealand Government)</i>	793,660					793,660
<i>Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)</i>	1,046,178					1,046,178
<i>On Line donations</i>	6,858					6,858
<i>Other</i>	84					84
<i>Portugal - Private Donors</i>	9					9
<i>South African Red Cross (from Paarl Media)</i>	39,600					39,600
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>	2,992,740					2,992,740
<i>Switzerland - Private Donors</i>	79					79
<i>Unidentified donor</i>	50,000					50,000
C1. Cash contributions	9,223,819					9,223,819
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>German Red Cross</i>	13,171					13,171
<i>German Red Cross (from German Government)</i>	118,535					118,535
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	131,705					131,705
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
<i>Irish Red Cross</i>	17,153					17,153
C4. Inkind Personnel	17,153					17,153
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	9,372,677					9,372,677
D. Total Funding = B + C	9,372,677					9,372,677
Appeal Coverage	34%					34%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	9,372,677					9,372,677
E. Expenditure	-8,305,117					-8,305,117
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	1,067,560					1,067,560

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRZW003 - Zimbabwe - Food Insecurity

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)	27,755,314						27,755,314	
Supplies								
Clothing & textiles	717							717
Food	16,835,875	2,881,553				2,881,553		13,954,322
Seeds,Plants	3,447,255	2,249,922				2,249,922		1,197,333
Water & Sanitation	246,250							246,250
Teaching Materials	96,937							96,937
Utensils & Tools	14,783	14,783				14,783		0
Total Supplies	20,641,818	5,146,258				5,146,258		15,495,559
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	108,150	48,146				48,146		60,004
Computers & Telecom	66,367	62,206				62,206		4,161
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.		1,131				1,131		-1,131
Others Machinery & Equipment		9,321				9,321		-9,321
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	174,517	120,805				120,805		53,713
Transport & Storage								
Storage	3,564,279	93,244				93,244		3,471,036
Distribution & Monitoring	210,132	870,357				870,357		-660,225
Transport & Vehicle Costs	143,911	241,290				241,290		-97,379
Total Transport & Storage	3,918,322	1,204,891				1,204,891		2,713,432
Personnel								
International Staff	292,920	183,653				183,653		109,267
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,300							3,300
National Staff	236,880	255,231				255,231		-18,351
National Society Staff	359,148	184,210				184,210		174,938
Consultants	39,119	46,562				46,562		-7,443
Total Personnel	931,367	669,656				669,656		261,712
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	29,303	30,358				30,358		-1,055
Total Workshops & Training	29,303	30,358				30,358		-1,055
General Expenditure								
Travel	24,900	26,292				26,292		-1,392
Information & Public Relation	314	1,084				1,084		-770
Office Costs	43,179	63,424				63,424		-20,246
Communications	11,144	33,584				33,584		-22,440
Professional Fees	30	171				171		-141
Financial Charges	176,323	64,829				64,829		111,494
Other General Expenses		23,893				23,893		-23,893
Total General Expenditure	255,890	213,278				213,278		42,613
Programme Support								
Program Support	1,804,095	574,587				574,587		1,229,509
Total Programme Support	1,804,095	574,587				574,587		1,229,509
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		345,285				345,285		-345,285
Total Operational Provisions		345,285				345,285		-345,285
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	27,755,314	8,305,117				8,305,117		19,450,197
VARIANCE (C - D)		19,450,197				19,450,197		

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRZW003 - Zimbabwe - Food Insecurity

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IV. Project Details

Project	Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Budget	Variance
		A	B	C	A + B + C	D	D - C
Goal 1: Disaster Management							
PZW012	Zimbabwe Food Insecurity	0	9,372,677	-8,305,117	1,067,560	27,755,314	19,450,197
Sub-Total Goal 1: Disaster Management		0	9,372,677	-8,305,117	1,067,560	27,755,314	19,450,197
Total	Zimbabwe - Food Insecurity	0	9,372,677	-8,305,117	1,067,560	27,755,314	19,450,197