

ZIMBABWE: DROUGHT RELIEF

20 October 1999

*appeal no. 06/99;
situation report no. 5
period covered: September 1999*

A capacity building workshop was held for the Zimbabwe Red Cross during the reporting period with participation of volunteers from four districts. Facilitators included Red Cross and Ministry of Health and Child Welfare officials. The National Society is maintaining co-operation with UNICEF on the development of food programmes targeting school children.

The context

The government of Zimbabwe declared a state of emergency in Matabeleland South in August 1998 due to severe drought. In response to requests from the communities, Zimbabwe Red Cross with the assistance of the International Federation carried out a needs assessment in Matabeleland South and Masvingo provinces.

The assessment results indicated the need for supplementary food assistance to children under the age of five. An Appeal was launched on 22 February targeting 40,000 children for food assistance. One district in Matabeleland South - Matobo South - and two districts in Masvingo - Mwenezi and Chiredzi - were selected as target areas as they were hardest hit by the drought.

Due to unforeseen delays, the programme in Masvingo province only commenced in April 1999, whereas the programme was launched in Matabeleland South from February thanks to financial assistance from the Netherlands Embassy and UNICEF backed by the Danish Embassy.

Latest events

A one week workshop for 35 volunteers was held in Matobo South early in September. Participants from four districts - Gwanda, Beitbridge, Matobo South and Umzingwani - attended. The subjects of the workshop included community health care, sanitation, basic first aid, food security, setting up and

running a feeding point and a basic understudying of children's nutritional needs. The long-term effect of the workshop was capacity building of the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, strengthening coping mechanisms in the community so that endemic problems of food insecurity are mitigated through the actions of trained volunteers.

The workshop was organised by the Gwanda branch of the Zimbabwe Red Cross and facilitators included Red Cross officials and Ministry of Health and Child Welfare staff. The volunteers are now in a position to train more volunteers in their communities.

The various forms used at feeding points in part of Matobo South were collected and analysed. The attendance rates for a five-month period show an average of 78% with each month as follows:

February	89.55%
March	75.19%
April	73.57%
May	75.53%
June	76.41%

The difference between individual months is not as big as had been expected and the high average is encouraging. More work will be done on the forms for the Chiredzi programme, which has been terminated, will be collected for analysis in late October.

Some of the clinics and feeding points carried out regular weight measurements of the children attending the supplementary feeding programme and registered gains of up to one kg per month.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Another Community Based Health workshop is being held in Mwenezi, Masvingo province, during the first week of October. Both workshops will be followed up by meetings with the participants to monitor the impact the training has had on the community level.

The selected and targeted feeding programmes in Matobo South of Matabeleland South province, Mwenezi in Masvingo province, and Chiota in Mashonaland East province continue. Enough food supplies to carry the programmes through to the end of November have been distributed to the various holding points and the feeding points have all collected their allowances.

Monitoring will take place during the month of October especially to assist the feeding point supervisors in completing the various forms correctly.

Outstanding Needs

With the three programmes in Mwenezi, Matopo and Chiota coming to a close during November, the new UNICEF financed supplementary feeding programme in Umzingwani will commence and the first food supplies have been distributed. UNICEF has a balance of funds which it needs to utilise and is in discussion with Zimbabwe Red Cross on how best to use it. A proposal to do feeding of school children in specific areas is being studied.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The assistance provided by the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare during the workshop in Matobo South and for the forthcoming workshop in Mwenezi is very important and clearly shows the good co-operation between the Red Cross and the Ministry.

Close co-operation with UNICEF can be seen as an important part of Zimbabwe Red Cross' long-term plans.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

Staff from the Zimbabwe Red Cross and the Federation are compiling a report on the success of the feeding programmes and will identify lessons learned during the operation. It is expected that the information obtained can be of use for other food insecurity operations in the region in the future.

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DROUGHT**

ANNEX

APPEAL No. 06/99 PLEDGES RECEIVED 10/20/99

DO	DONOR	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN		480,000	01/01/99	68.62%
APPEAL----->			9	
CAN	CANADIAN - RC	3,000 CAD	2,878	05/10/99
DEN	DANISH - RC	100,000 DKK	21,510	03/03/99
FIN	FINNISH - RC	150,000 FIM	39,990	02/26/99
ICE	ICELANDIC - RC	200,000 ISK	3,913	02/24/99
JAP	JAPANESE - RC	1,300,000 JPY	15,855	03/12/99
OT	MONACO - RC	20,000 FRF	4,874	03/16/99
NET	NETHERLANDS - GOVT		89,500	12/15/98 EMBASSY IN HARARE DIRECT TO J
NOR	NORWEGIAN - RC	150,000 NOK	27,809	03/15/99
SWE	SWEDISH - RC	100,000 SEK	18,010	03/03/99
USA	AMERICAN - RC	50,000 USD	73,225	03/20/99
OT	UNICEF		31,800	01/15/99 DIRECT TO NS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH			329,364 CHF	68.62%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCL. PERSONNEL)

	TY		CHF	
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