

ZAMBIA: REFUGEE INFLUX

13 October 1999

appeal no. 11/99

situation report no. 3

period covered: 1 - 30 September 1999

Programme extension - revised from 4 November to 31 December 1999

This programme has been formally extended to 31 December 1999, after which it will be included in the 2000 Plan of Action. This replaces the announced extension to March 2000 as mentioned in Situation Report No. 2. The budget revision stated in that report, however, remains the same.

The refugee population in Zambia remains constant and renewed fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo has even caused further influxes of refugees into northern Zambia. The Zambia Red Cross Society, with the support of the International Federation, is maintaining assistance to refugees in both the transit centre in Kaputa and the Mwangi camp in Mporokoso. Responsibility has recently been assumed by the Red Cross for health care and water and sanitation activities.

The context

Since March, 1999, some 25,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), fleeing the conflict in their country, have sought protection and assistance by crossing into Zambia's northern District of Kaputa. The refugees were initially either located in a transit camp in Kaputa for 4-6 weeks, or spontaneously settled with Zambian villagers. In late April and early May, those in the transit centre were relocated to a more permanent camp in Mporokoso District and spontaneous settlers have been encouraged to join them. The permanent camp is fully functional and the Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS), with support from the International Federation, is assuming increasing responsibility as other agencies withdraw. In a recent agreement with UNHCR, the Red Cross has taken over responsibility for health activities from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)-Holland and is in the process of taking over the water and sanitation responsibilities from Oxfam. This programme has been extended from 4 November 1999 to 31 December, after which it will be included in the 2000 Plan of Action.

Latest events

There is renewed fighting reported in the eastern part of DRC. In a related issue, the Zambian President, while addressing the 54th United Nations' General Assembly in New York, urged the Security Council to expedite authorisation to send a peace keeping force to the DRC.

Against this background, refugees continue to trickle into northern Zambia with small numbers registering at the Kaputa transit centre before being transferred to Mwangi camp in Mporokoso. The population at the camp now stands at 14,999 refugees with new arrivals coming in from various entry

points. The refugee population at Kaputa transit centre is still fluctuating on a daily basis. Between 9 and 15 September 1999, the transit centre registered a total of 243 refugees, and out of these 200 were relocated to Mwange while 25 left spontaneously to nearby Zambian villages. The situation has been relatively calm in the transit centre, but 5,000 DRC refugees are reported to be spontaneously settled in the Zambian villages close to the border.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

During the reporting period, the ZRCS/IFRC continued serving the refugee communities both in the Mwange camp in Mporokoso and the transit centre in Kaputa. The ZRCS/IFRC is still responsible for all aspects of refugee assistance in Kaputa and at Mwange camp is responsible for reception of new arrivals, distribution of food commodities, warehousing and distribution of non-food items.

In light of the recent signed agreement between the UNHCR and ZRCS/IFRC, the responsibility for health activities has been taken over from MSF-Holland. Necessary health staff, both nationals and Federation staff (including a Tanzanian Red Cross member who was formerly Health Co-ordinator in Lugufu Camp) have been deployed to the field. The transfer of water and sanitation components from OXFAM is on schedule. The ZRCS/IFRC has deployed two water and sanitation engineers, one technician and one environmental health technician.

Relief Distribution (Food and non-food) - Mwange camp in Mporokoso w

The distribution of food in Mwange has continued to be done fortnightly for general distributions. Distribution of food items for the new arrivals continued with rations given to coincide with the next general distribution. Construction of the new distribution centre is progressing very well. The rations in these distributions are 450 grams per person per day for maize meal, 120 grams per person per day for beans (pulses), 10 grams per person per day for salt and 20 millilitres per person per day for cooking oil.

The distribution of non-food items in Mwange has also continued. New arrivals are given plastic sheeting, kitchen sets and blankets upon registration. Soap is distributed at the ration of one tablet per refugee per month.

During the month of September a review of all activity has been done at the field level. The main purpose of the review was to draw a realistic plan of action based on learned lessons during the previous months.

Date	Description	No. Mwange Camp Benef.	Maize Meal kg	Beans kg	Salt kg	Cooking Oil (litres)
06.08.99	new arrival	137	180	48	4	4
09.08.99	general distribution	42	98,057	26,149	2,179	4,793
11.08.99	new arrivals	81	514	111	11	15
12.08.99	new arrivals	29	157	43	4	7
15.08.99	new arrivals	45	225	41	5	11
19.08.99	new arrivals	2	5	1	0	0
20.08.99	new arrivals	47	82	19	2	4
23.08.99	new arrivals	11	74	20	2	3.62
24.08.99	general distribution	14,697	99,277	27,611	2,162	4,866
26.08.99	new arrivals	103	695	185	15	34



Food distribution - Mwange Camp (September 1999)	Quantity Distributed
Maize meal	100 410.9 kg
Beans	27 808.52 kg
Cooking Oil	4 964.73 lt
Salt	2 243.36 kg

Non-Food Distribution - Mwange Camp (September 1999)	Quantity Distributed
Blanket	20 pieces
Plastic	131 pieces
Kitchen set	98 pieces
Soap	213 pieces

Kaputa Transit Centre w

Distribution of food commodities at the Kaputa transit centre to new arrivals has continued until they are transferred to Mwange Camp. Though the Red Cross is not responsible for purchasing of food items, delays occurred in distribution recently when 11,401 kg of maize meal and 700 kg of high energy protein supplements were rejected by Ministry of Health personnel due to weevil infestation.

Health Programme w

Mwange Camp - During the month under review the hand-over of this sector to ZRCS/IFRC from MSF-Holland was completed. The ZRCS/IFRC deployed to Mwange all the necessary health staff who are currently working closely with the Ministry of Health in Mporokoso. Total consultations at the clinic were 1168. The leading causes of illness at the camp are malaria, respiratory tract infections, diarrhoea and bloody diarrhoea. At the children's clinic, 408 children were examined and weighed. Weight monitoring showed 91 children are below normal levels, indicating some form of malnourishment. Immunisations have been carried out at the camp as per the schedule of the Ministry of Health. All children below the age of five were immunised.

Kaputa Transit Centre - The ZRCS/IFRC continues to provide both preventive and curative health to refugees in Kaputa. Earlier reported cholera cases amongst the spontaneously settled refugees is now serious. Ten cholera treatment centres including a referral cholera treatment centre have since been opened. There is still no cholera case reported in the camp. At the children's clinic, 59 children were examined and weighed. Weight monitoring showed 36 children are below normal levels, indicating some form of undernourishment. Immunisations have also been carried out for children accommodated in the transit centre.

Water and Sanitation w

By the end of September 1999 responsibility for the water and sanitation sector had been handed over fully to ZRCS/IFRC from OXFAM. Besides provision of safe water to all refugees, the hygiene promotion programme and construction of communal and family latrines became the responsibilities of the Red Cross.

A temporary water system had been installed through the efforts of MSF/Irish Aid /Oxfam in March, pumping water from the nearby river. Some of the equipment used for this and the grid-work must be returned to Irish Aid. As the river water is expected to be muddy and thick during the rainy season and require treatment, it is proposed to rebuild the water supply system based on development of a spring water source. This is expected to deliver 10-15 litres per day per person for up to 30,000 refugees.

With only 4% of the population having access to latrines, there is also a major task to increase the latrine building programme and to strengthen sanitation capacities and vector control with the onset of the rains.

The needs exceeded expectations from before the handover and have required the Federation to revise once again the budget for the whole programme.

Outstanding needs

The rainy season in the northern part of Zambia, especially in the area where the refugee camp is located, is known to be quite heavy. There is need therefore to procure some non-food items for the refugees so as to make their stay in the camp during this season bearable. Bales of used clothes, shoes for both children and adults, blankets for children and plastic sleeping mats are urgently needed. These will be prioritised when funds become available.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

As a result of improved service delivery and transparency, the relationship with other partners both in the field and at the Lusaka level are good. Both at the field and the Lusaka level, co-operation and consultations with other agencies has been going on in a cordial manner. The relationship with the UNHCR and government has likewise been very good.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

It is difficult to predict what the future may hold concerning the general situation in the DRC in relation to the peace accord signed between the government allied forces and rebels in the Zambian capital city Lusaka, on 10 July 1999. The refugees who started trickling in the northern part of Zambia since March 1999, following the conflict in their country, sought protection and assistance by crossing into Zambia.

Though it is hoped the peace accord will be carried through, the refugee situation can be expected to continue to affect the northern part of Zambia for the foreseeable future. This is emphasised by the reported fighting in the eastern part of DRC.

Director
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

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Africa Department

**NAME: ZAMBIA,
REFUGEES**

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APPEAL No. 11/99

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DONOR	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN		1,631,000	01/01/99 93.11%
APPEAL----- ----- --->			
DEN	DANISH - RC	200,000 DKK	43,020 06/30/99
GB	BRITISH - RC		219,816 10/06/99
FIN	FINNISH - RC	50,457 EUR	80,465 06/22/99
ICE	ICELANDIC - RC	200,000 SEK	4,066 05/31/99
OT	MONACO - RC	40,000 FRF	9,748 07/07/99
NOR	NORWEGIAN - RC	100,000 NOK	18,767 05/12/99
SWE	SWEDISH - RC/GOVT	500,000 SEK	90,000 05/17/99
USA	AMERICAN RC	25,000 USD	36,613 05/25/99
HCR	UNHCR		581,581 08/23/99 DIRECT TO DELEGATION
USA	US GOVT. (PRM)	285,000 USD	434,625 09/29/99
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH			1,518,701 CHF 93.11%