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# Zimbabwe- Mid Year Report

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAZW001

15 October 2012

**This report covers the period  
01/01/12 to 30/06/12**

*In picture from left; IFRC Country Representative for Zimbabwe, Japanese Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr Yonezo Fukuda, Zimbabwe Red Cross Secretary General, Mr. Lucky Goteka and Mashonaland Central Governor, Advocate Martin Dinha during the commissioning of one of the Japanese funded garden projects in Bveke, Mashonaland Centra-Photo ZRCS*



## Overview

During the reporting period, Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) focused on alleviating the suffering of vulnerable people and communities through contributing to the decline in deaths, injuries and impact from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies. This was done through increasing Red Cross and community capacity to address situations of vulnerability and reduce intolerance, discrimination at the same time encouraging respect for diversity and human dignity through Food Security, Health and HIV, Disaster Management, Water and Sanitation as well as Organisational Development programmes.

Food Security interventions have been supported by the British Red Cross. World Food Programme (WFP) and the Japanese Government funded enhanced food security interventions focusing on food assistance, agricultural recovery as well as water and sanitation activities. 12,000 beneficiaries were supported through funds from the Japanese government, 3,877 beneficiaries through the WFP programme and 9,000 households with support from the British Red Cross.

An EU/ACP funded WatSan project targeting 100,000 beneficiaries is being implemented with the aim of improving the health status of the community in Chivi district through the provision of safe water, sanitation facilities and health and hygiene education. ZRCS is also implementing a Community Based HIV and AIDS, TB and Behaviour Change Programme funded by the Norwegian Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross.

The ZRCS Communications' programme has done well to promote organisational visibility riding on the organisation's activities, key Red Cross Commemorations such as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. Positive coverage has been generated as evidenced by stories published in both the

electronic and print media. Training of new staff was done on the Red Cross Fundamental Principles and International Humanitarian Law in partnership with the ICRC.

### Working in Partnerships

The Zimbabwe Red Cross partners providing technical and financial support include the following,

Partner	Area of Collaboration
IFRC	Coordination, resource mobilisation, technical and programmes support
ICRC	Technical and programmes support
WFP	Food security
Partner National Societies (PNS) –Finnish and Norwegian Red Cross Societies ( In country ) and American, British, Netherlands Red Cross Societies	Technical and programmes support
Japanese Government	Food Security and Livelihoods
DFID	Community Disaster Risk Reduction
Ministry of Health and Child Welfare (MOHCW)	Technical support, policy and coordination
World Health Organisation	Technical assistance on trends, outbreaks and response in collaboration with the MOHCW.
Agricultural Extension Services (AGRITEX)	Food security livelihoods
District Development Fund (DDF)	Technical support on WatSan
Relevant Government Ministries and local authorities	Technical partners in the food security and livelihoods, WatSan and disaster management

### Business Line 2: To grow Red Cross Red Crescent Services for Vulnerable People

**Outcome:** *Reduction in deaths, losses and damage due to disasters and crises.*

#### Progress towards outcomes on Business Line 2

**Coping capacities of volunteers and communities during disasters are increased** to address disaster and vulnerability issues pertaining to population movement. 7,500 beneficiaries were reached through the project of whom 3,000 were male and 4,500 were female increasing the capacity of the beneficiaries to define disaster related problems and provide local level solutions in some of the areas.

**Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR)** funded by the American Red Cross (ARC) under the Building Resilient African Communities (BRACES) projects supports the Zambezi River Basin. It strengthened resilience of African communities to disaster risks by mobilizing communities to use their social capital and knowledge in order to mitigate and respond to disasters and the effects of climate change

**Zambezi River Basin Initiative (ZRBI)** targeted three of the five districts along the Zambezi with funding support from DFID. The project targeted the enhancing of activities already undertaken in the district, through PHAST training and distribution of NFI for hygiene promotion. The first phase of ZRBI support saw communities engaging in DRR and climate mitigation projects such as bridge construction in areas where hazards exist and establishment of gardens to counter effects of climate change.

**Community Based Health and First Aid in Action (CBHFA)** is focusing on the exit strategy including strengthening of communities and Red Cross branch structures so that the projects could remain sustainable. The projects will also include the software component in the second half of the year so as to leave a mark in the project areas.

**Logistics and warehousing** was improved with the commissioning of the Gweru Warehouse by The Minister of Health and Child Welfare on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2012. The USD \$217,000 warehouse which has a lifespan of 50-60 years will be used to preposition Disaster relief materials for the Red Cross Prepositioning of relief items is planned for the second half of the year.

**Ubuntu Initiative** supported with funds from the Netherlands Red Cross continues to work closely with the South African Red Cross Society and other stakeholders such as the Child Protection Working Group and the Civil Protection Department on migration issues. In light of the cross border initiatives the funding from the Netherland Red Cross assisted with Population Movement of Mothers and Children under the Ubuntu Initiative to restore family links and support for women and children who may have moved to South Africa as a result of hardships during the 2008 – 2009 era, who may be repatriated or deported.

### **Contingency Planning – National Referendum and Harmonized Elections**

The National Society in keeping with its mandate of being a disaster response and preparedness organisation concluded the process of drafting a contingency plan for the National Constitution referendum to be held at the end of this year and National Harmonized elections as indicated by parties to the Government of National Unity and the SADC regional bloc. NS is mobilizing resources through partners so as to be able to respond as and when the dates are announced.

### **Constraints or Challenges**

The National Society has been facing a number of internal challenges which affected the smooth flow of activities and contributed to low partners' funding levels. Efforts are being made to address the internal NS challenges. A new Acting Secretary General was appointed as an interim measure.

### **Business Line 3. To strengthen the specific Red Cross and Red Crescent Contribution to Development**

**Outcome:** To reduce the illnesses, deaths and mitigate impact from communicable, non-communicable and public health emergencies.

A total of 20 adult peer educators (12 female and eight male) continue being supported in Manicaland including members of the Apostolic Sect, who do not visit any clinic on religious grounds, but are changing as a result of this support. 4,194 people (2,248 females and 1,946 males) were reached through in and out of school peer education activities and clinic staff confirm that there is a slight decrease in teenage pregnancies. A total of 20 volunteers in Manicaland were trained on PMTCT under the Red Cross prevention programme. The training was facilitated by the Ministry of

Health and Child Welfare (MOHCW) and the Zimbabwe Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS (ZNNP<sup>+</sup>). Nine community sensitisation meetings on PMTCT were held, reaching 493 people including influential community leaders for support. 309 expectant mothers, 87 partners and significant others have been reached through mother to mother peer education on PMTCT activities.

The ambassadors of hope managed to reach 4,787 people; 2,027 male and 2,760 female with information on positive living and prevention of further HIV infections and anti-stigma campaigns in the two quarters. This has resulted in male participants embracing their importance in accompanying their wives to the antenatal clinics.

A total of 528 OVC received educational support in Mashonaland West, Manicaland and Matabeleland North, between January - June 2012 comprising of 265 males and 263 females. Children are also supported with school uniforms and shoes. In the three provinces a total of 53 OVC were supported with medical check-ups and treatment as prescribed by doctors, most of who are on ART while others are still on opportunistic infection drugs resulting in acceptance of their status as they are able to do what other children are doing hence restoring their dignity. Volunteers work with children to support them psychologically and this has raised openness and self-esteem in the OVC .70 volunteers have been trained (51 female and 19 male) in “Basic OVC Programming and Hero Work, during the reporting period. Guardian clubs have been established with a total of 90 guardians, (65 female and 25 male) involved in poultry and goat rearing and gardening. They expressed gratitude over the clubs’ ability to bring them together, where they share experiences on child care while realising some profit which enables them to look after the OVCs.

The EU/ACP funded Chivi water, sanitation and hygiene Project (CHIWASH is targeting 100,000 people. The project aims at improving the health status of the community in Chivi District through provision of safe water, sanitation facilities and health and hygiene education.

### **Baseline Survey Feedback**

Following the baseline survey which was conducted by the Institute of Water and Sanitation Development (IWSD) in May 2012, the consultants gave a feedback presentation to all stakeholders in Chivi district which included all DWSSC members, councillors of the wards to benefit from the project, Chiefs, CHIWASH staff members and IFRC. Below are pictures showing the presentation in progress.



*Institute of Water and Sanitation Development (IWSD) Baseline survey results presentation workshop – May 2012/ZRCS*

The consulting team from the IWSD presented their findings and it was highlighted that the largest percentage of people (44.8%) in the Chivi south community were practicing open defecation while over 56% of the respondents were travelling long distances (30 minutes to 1 hour or more) to a water point.

Community Mobilisation and Sensitisation of Community Leadership on the Project was done in 14 wards and meetings were held with the community leadership comprising of the chief, the headmen, councillors, village heads, school representatives, EHTs, village health workers and nurses. The groups were sensitised on the history and the Fundamental Principles of Red Cross and other activities of the Movement. The communities were also sensitised on the nature of the WatSan project and how the implementation was going to be carried out. Due to logistical challenges two wards could not be visited, these will be done concurrently with the health promoters' trainings. A total of 564 people (387 male and 177 female) were reached.

### Constraints or Challenges

The main challenges have been internal which have seen the National Society lose many partners. The society continues to write proposals to potential donors as well as identifying income generation programmes.

**Outcome:** To increase local, civil and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

### Achievements

To increase the capacity of ZRCS to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability the management structure of the National Society is under review and will be implemented once the report from the consultant has been shared.

Strengthening of structures in branch development, governance, and volunteer management was done with a total of 65 new adult branches established in 32 districts in the country, while 27 youth branches were formed in 11 districts. All provinces within ZRCS have been working on putting in both adult and youth structures since the beginning of 2012. This is because of the fact that elections for both adults and youths are due in 2012. Significant progress has been registered in this aspect. Youth structures (branches) have been established in three more tertiary institutions since January 2012. This brings the total number of university and college branches to 8 in the country's biggest universities and colleges.

The ZRCS is engaged in a number of projects in an effort to mobilise resources which include sewing merchandise, kiosks, small micro irrigation projects, letting of office space, poultry and pig farming projects.

### Constraints and/or Challenges

The economic challenges up to 2009 meant that most income generating projects were closed down; meaning the majority needed recapitalisation in order for them to take off, hence the organisation is still in the process of recapitalising some of these projects. The first aid equipment also needs to be replaced and to strengthen the First Aid training component. The National Society has been negatively affected by financial challenges. Local resource mobilisation initiatives have not

realised enough funds to support the various organisational development components of the national society. Due to funding constraints, ZRCS lost many experienced staff as it was not able to pay them. This has largely affected branch development initiatives at ground level as some officers who used to work on Organisational Development (OD) matters have since left the organisation. The overall OD programme for ZRCS has not had funding for the past two years. Only the Youth Development component of the programme is funded by the Norwegian Red Cross. This has largely affected attainment of set programme goals and objectives, as some basic resources such as fuel and transport needed to access branches and other grass root initiatives have been extremely difficult to get.

#### **Business Line 4: To heighten Red Cross Red Crescent Influence and support for our work**

**Outcome: To Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.**

##### **Achievements**

Regardless of current challenges, ZRCS Communications unit has to date done a lot to build and maintain a positive image of the National Society. The partnerships that have been created, the positive media coverage and the slowly but progressively improving corporate funding are indicative of future success in National Society visibility plans. This will improve on goodwill, volunteer recruitment, partner attraction and retention as well as the general promotion of Red Cross work in the country.

##### **Working in partnership**

The ZRCS with technical support of the IFRC has been working closely with other Movement partners to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable households in Zimbabwe. These include the ICRC, and PNS namely British, Finnish, Netherlands, Norwegian, and American Red Cross. The National Society also worked closely with the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, National AIDS Council, relevant government ministries and local authorities and technical partners on programmatic issues. There were also strong collaborations with EU and United Nations agencies such as WFP and Japanese government on food security and WatSan programmes

##### **Contributing to longer-term impact**

Monthly monitoring of the programmes, periodic assessments and reviews across all programmes were done. The results of these were used to strengthen the interventions planned for 2012. Monitoring was done at the same time as the conducting of trainings which reduced the time and costs needed for field visits. The National Society has also used public perception of the organisation during national exhibitions and generated media stories to determine the level of understanding and respect that the nation has on the organisation. During the period under review, the organisation has been portrayed in good light regardless of the prevailing challenges owing to effective public relations and visibility of the organisation's activities. ZRCS Communications unit has worked closely with all departments to foster positive coverage and respect of the ZRCS brand.

These initiatives will have a positive impact in the long run particularly where issues of local resource mobilisation and support of ZRCS work is concerned. Once the organisation's contribution to the welfare of ordinary Zimbabweans is recognised, it becomes easier to access local and corporate funding potential.

## Looking ahead

The first half of 2012 was challenging as the Zimbabwe Red Cross was operating under difficult funding circumstances, however the shared regard for humanity and positive visibility and goodwill generated through marketing and public relations activities has gone a long way in projecting a positive image of the organisation. Avenues for new local partnerships and corporate funding have been created and the organisation needs to fully maximise on this opportunity.

Looking ahead, the country is not in a humanitarian crisis but an early recovery mode which is greatly affected by economic challenges, poor water and sanitation, limited medical infrastructures and services, high levels of food insecurity and climate change. Capacity building of the National Society will enable it to deal with challenges arising through empowerment in disaster risk reduction preparedness.

ZRCS is also looking ahead to continued support from the above mentioned partners in the implementation of programmes besides expanding the OVC Programming and Prevention of HIV infections to other districts. In addition, the ZRCS is building its capacity at branch level through measures such as strengthening governance capacity, youth and volunteer structures and resource mobilisation and through income-generating activities to ensure sustainability. Priority areas for the National Society remain as institutional capacity building, resource mobilisation, food security and health interventions.

## Financial situation

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

## How we work

All IFRC 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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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