



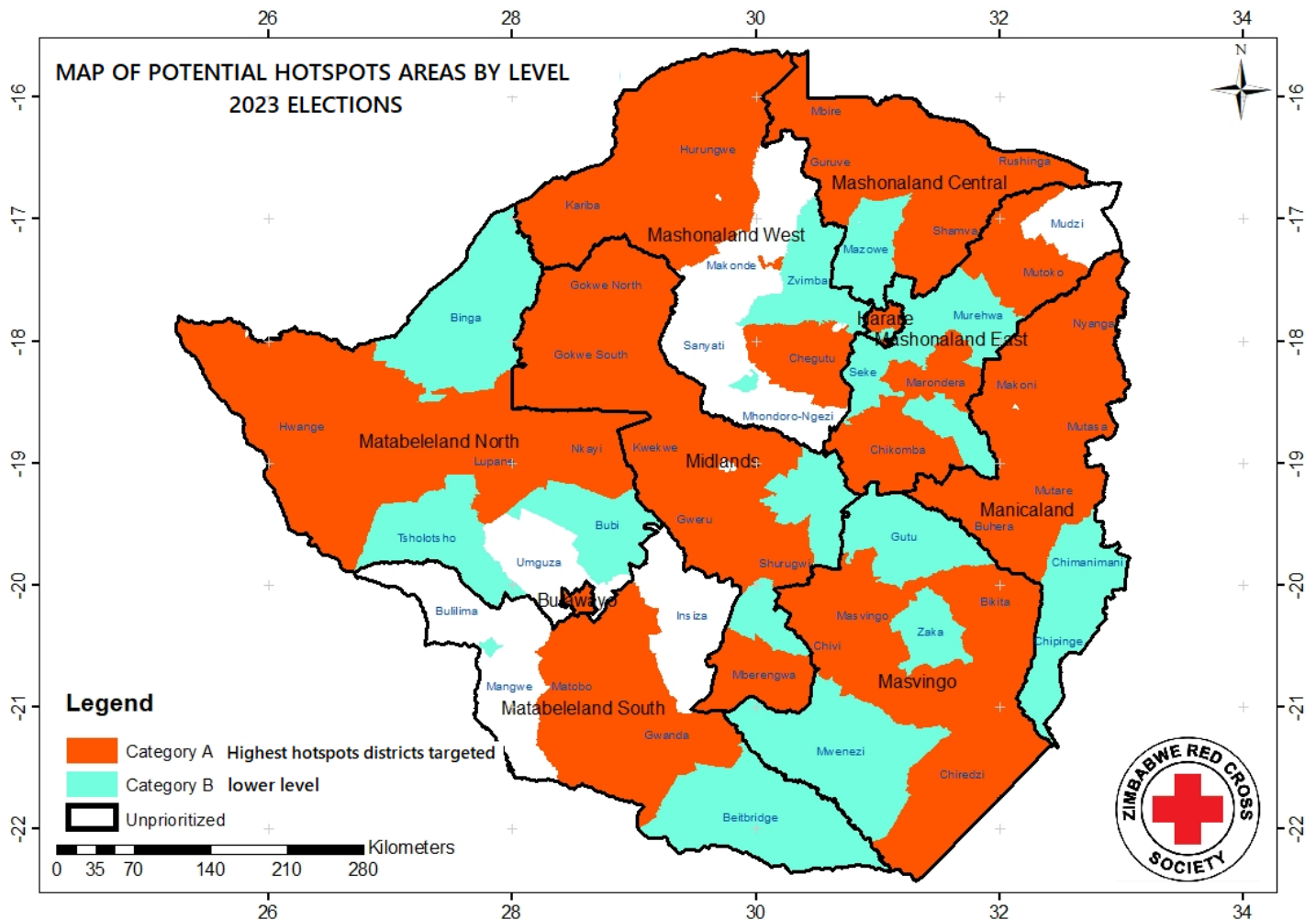
ZRCs Volunteers covering a Rally July 2023

Appeal: MDRZW022	Country: Zimbabwe	Hazard: Other	Type of DREF Imminent
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Slow	DREF Allocation: CHF 160,105	
Glide Number: XX-2014-123456-XXX	People at risk: 1,000,000 people	People Targeted: 10,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 2023-08-02	Operation Timeframe: 3 months	Operation End Date: 2023-11-30	DREF Published: 2023-08-04
Targeted Areas:			

Description of the Event

Approximate date of impact

General election in Zimbabwe are planned on 23 August 2023. Confirmed through a press release of the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) by National president. <https://www.zesn.org.zw/zesn-statement-on-the-proclamation-of-the-election-date/press-statement/2023/6070/29/26/08/03/06/2023/ashley/>



Map of forecasted hotspots with highest Targeted districts

What is expected to happen?

In line with the Zimbabwe Constitution, the country holds national harmonized elections every five years, also called general elections. Hence, the next elections will be held on the 23rd of August 2023 and will include the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local council elections. Following the constitution, If there is no outright winner in the presidential contest (winning with more than 50% votes), a run-off will is held six weeks later (october).

Dubbed as “dry run” to this year’s contested election, the by-election tension, voting process and the extreme political polarization in the country may lead to situations of violence during the election period.

Already, politically linked violent events have been reported successively since 2022. The most significant recent examples include some skirmishes reported in recent weeks which led malicious damage to property, livelihoods and infrastructure reported in Nyatsime, Chitungwiza on the outskirts of Harare.



Hence, multiple elements are indicating a possibility of violence in the impending 2023 elections. This analysis highlighted by several analysis from experts, media National and international is premised on the following indicators:

- a. The historical trend in Zimbabwe depicts an upsurge of violence around elections time. Inter and intra-political party skirmishes at recent political meetings and the 22 March 2022 By-election. In March 2022, the country held by-elections to fill vacant parliamentary and council seats. The run-up to these by-elections witnessed violence incidences and, in some cases, Red Cross volunteers assisted the victims.
- b. There are verbal attacks and counter attacks in the media between the political parties with increased political activism in the country leading to a tense political environment.
- c. Lack of political tolerance in some areas which has previously experienced disputed election results which in turn ignited violence.
- d. Inadequate reconciliation efforts post 2008 violence and the deaths and injuries in the post 2018 election period which predisposes people towards a tendency of violence as revenge.
- e. Possibility of an increase in migration towards the elections as people return to vote.
- f. Emerging pressure groups which are not directly affiliated to political parties wield potential influence in political agitation.
- g. Proliferation of social media (Facebook, Twitter & WhatsApp) as political mobilization tools may result in mass agitation and protests.
- h. The economic challenges and hardships have heightened tension which may cause political agitation and sporadic incidences of public disobedience (riots and protests).



ZRCS Volunteers covering STAR rallies in Midlands Province

Why your National Society is acting now and what criteria is used to launch this operation.

The Previous election in 2018 was relatively peaceful, with sporadic incidences of violence and post-election skirmishes which saw the death of 6 people. However, the few incident and death reported were already early warning indicators that the decay of the economical, socio-political and humanitarian situation in the past 5 years have amplified. Indeed, the cumulative impact of 2 years COVID, successive natural and humanitarian crises over the past decade with one of the highest food insecurity situation has build a population with level of expectations

and needs than in 2018.

Furthermore, Zimbabwe has historically been subject to pre and post electoral tensions with previously experienced unrests, deaths, injuries and population movement witnessed in 2008 which saw approximately over 2000 people either injured, displaced or affected. Occurrences of violence were worst in the campaign period and escalated in the post-election period as the poll results were contested. Recent unrests are also reported already.

In the most likely scenario of the NS contingency plan, the above analysis are sufficient to trigger the NS preparedness to support communities for possible unrest. The summarized situation is already highlighting the economic hardship and political incidents or unrests in current context analysis. Both being the main indicators to trigger ZRCS actions.

Furthermore, the above analysis shows they could be need for NS to support the election process for community safety and first aid. Hence, first aid will be triggered by alerts and follow the whole election calendar. 3 phases are identified for ZRCS first aid intervention:

- 1) Campaign rallies. Biggest rallies expected last week prior votes.
- 2) Votes days 23rd August 2023.
- 3) Post electoral, from 24th August until the proclamation of results expected between 5 to 7 days from vote based respectively on law or history.

Past experience has shown that election violence usually occurs all through this steps but with intensification during the campaign and in the waiting days before the announcement of the results and during the run-up to a presidential run-off when it happens. This also the period where the main impact is expected to be experienced. Voting day violence has occurred in some areas but it is usually quickly dealt with by police officers who are also deployed at polling stations. There's still need for first aid to assist the casualties when incidents occur.

As already started on this planning, ZRCS will keep ensuring a proactive analysis of any unrest indicators and alerts during the pre-elections that could trigger the voting days and post voting days until the proclamation of the results. Furthermore, a revision of this intervention to repeat the above will be trigger in case of no absolute majority that relaunch vote following the country election law. The second run-off as said being a high tense period from past experience. Usually it could take up to six weeks approximatively to run the elections again. This time still included here for administrative facilities.

Scope and Scale

Categorization of Districts hotspots follow the past experiences on elections in the different provinces, NS capacity in those districts, current economical and socio-political situation in these various areas. As such, understanding the districts and province mapping is key. The Republic of Zimbabwe is broken down into 10 administrative provinces, which are divided into 59 districts and 1,200 wards. administrative division of the country at district level is as follow:

Bulawayo Province with district of Bulawayo

Harare Province with district of Harare

Districts of Manicaland (Buhera, Chimanemani, Chipinge, Makoni, Mutare, Mutasa, Nyanga)

Districts of Mashonaland Central (Bindura, Guruve, Mazowe, Mbire, Mount Darwin, Muzarabani, Mukumbura, Rushinga, Shamva)

Districts of Mashonaland East (Chikomba, Goromonzi, Marondera, Mudzi, Murehwa, Mutoko, Seke, UMP (Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe), Wedza (Hwedza)

Districts of Mashonaland West (Chegutu, Hurungwe, Kariba, Makonde, Mhondoro-Ngezi, Sanyati, Zvimba, Kadoma, Chinhoyi)

Districts of Masvingo (Bikita, Chiredzi, Chivi, Gutu, Masvingo, Mwenezi, Zaka)

Districts of Matabeleland North (Binga, Bubi, Hwange, Lupane, Nkayi, Tsholotsho, Umguza)

Districts of Matabeleland South (Beitbridge, Bulilima, Gwanda, Insiza, Mangwe, Matobo, Umzingwane)

Districts of Midlands (Chirumhanzu, Gokwe North, Gokwe South, Gweru, Kwekwe, Mberengwa, Shurugwi, Zvishavane)

The NS has based the analysis of hotspots categorization represented in the Map on several criteria include socio-economical, politic representation, population which play a key role on number of voters and rallies, past impact on previous elections etc. Indeed, based on previous election experiences, violence is likely to manifest at



rallies and in communities due to political differences and intolerance. Violence also flares up after announcement of results. Areas with significant political volatility were singled out by the NS for prioritization in the election's preparedness plan. Such areas were therefore identified (in categories A and B depending on level of potential for violence) as shown in the map. In general, ZRCS anticipates the following category of districts to be likely affected:

- Highest priority in Harare and Bulawayo provinces. These are the main cities in the country and represent a significant part of economy and socio-political diversity.
- Main districts with biggest population and potential voter. The most populated provinces being: Harare, Bulawayo, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Midland, Masvingo.
- Districts with highest representation of socio-economical diversity and development: such as Gwoke, Mberengwa, Mutare, Chipenge, Buhera, Moromonzi, Gurewha. especially the most populated and politicize. These are also the biggest districts. It is estimated that more than 3,000,000 people are living in the most populated districts and the main districts in the various provinces. Main cities/districts that represent the economical heart of the province and cumulate the highest population. The more populated, the more important are the rallies, the voters and the possible demonstrations complexity. In 2018, more than nine thousands polling points were set-up and it is expected to have more this year with the growing population and the revision of percentage of votes per category. More rallies are expected also in these areas as well as more polling point, voters and voices for any political debates pre and post-electoral.
- Districts with some social criteria to be closely monitor as areas with ongoing persistent humanitarian crisis

Furthermore, the situation could be worst in migrant host areas linked to the recent rise in anti-immigrants in South Africa. This has left immigrants and refugees fearing for their safety and these attacks has left some Zimbabweans dead. These tensions are spearheaded by 2 unregistered community organizations called Operation Dudula and the Alexandra Dudula Movement. Operation Dudula is said to be a splinter group from a faction in the Put South Africa First movement, an organization that first popularized and renewed anti-immigration campaigns on social media before finding expression on the ground.

These campaigns are most likely to lead to yet another outbreak of xenophobic violence in the country and this may lead to forced return of a significant number of Zimbabweans, hence the need for Restoration of Family Links (RFL) support. There is also an issue on Zimbabwean Exemption Permit (ZEP) on which the South African Department of Home Affairs issued a directive that it would no longer renew the ZEP visa and applicants for the ZEP visa have been granted a grace period up until 31st December 2023. This is a devastating blow to many Zimbabweans in South Africa as there are a huge amount of ZEP visa holders in South Africa who will be affected by this directive. Sadly, there are two scenarios for those who do not qualify for the visa they will need to return to Zimbabwe. If they refuse to return and have not applied for the visa, they will be deported back to Zimbabwe.

From historical trend of population movements pre and post elections in the most likely scenarios RFL support will be a priority need to cover. This analysis could be emphasized by the situation of migrant and Zimbabwean communities conflict experienced in Dubala.

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population groups?	Yes
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding from DREF for that event(s)?	No



If yes, please specify which operations

MDRXXX Year, MDRXXX Year.

Lessons learned

Future operations should ensure an overall coverage of the country, especially regarding health and First Aid activities, and not to only focus on hotspots provinces.

ZRCS from long years of experience, the context can be very volatile. Especially socio-economical context and likely In this election period. In previous intervention, the inflation and other economical changes, limitation of some items requiring interventional process and incidence of others crisis in the interventions have been more than twice noticed as challenges faced. The DREF Emergency plan of action strategies could also be more flexible in terms of activities for ZRCS to be able to respond to the evolving situation and the change in needs. The Zimbabwe context require a level of flexibility that the DREF tool should be able to address and the NS proactively take actions to mitigate or adapt the plan to any risks.

The protection and care of volunteers to be one top priority in responding. Volunteers need to be equipped with basic PPEs and trained on self-care as well as the safe access as election response is characterized by hostilities from the populations.

In 2018, NS covered the election period also through in-country resources and covered 7% of more than three thousands polling points which has been clearly insufficient. That challenge is also consider in the planning for the upcoming elections. An extended support is needed for such intervention with a bigger pool of volunteers ready while deployment will follow the priorities and the situation changes.

Current National Society Actions

Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The operation will ensure the promotion and participation of men and women including persons with disabilities of different age groups in all election related activities. A continuous dialogue among the different stakeholders will be fostered to ensure all programmes/sectors mainstream Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety (DAPS) approach ensuring the Minimum Standards on Protection, Gender and Inclusion in emergencies are met based on the identified needs and priorities of humanitarian imperatives on the ground. This operation will ensure all staff and volunteers are briefed on the Code of Conduct and on prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse and child safeguarding as they implement the interventions. It will ensure all NS (National Society), IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross), PNS (Partner National Societies) staff and volunteers involved have signed the Code of Conduct. PGI (Protection, Gender, Inclusion) mainstreaming will be done per Minimum PGI standards in the emergency interventions while ensuring that all the data that is collected is disaggregated using SADDD (Sex Age Disability Disaggregated Data).

Health

Volunteers deployed until now have ensured to promote messages on the reduction of the spread of cholera during such gatherings.

Considering the election will take place across the country, with the potential for tensions to arise before, during, and even after the elections, it is important to set up a base for ZRCS volunteers and staff. As a result, it is imperative to have the emergency operation centre (EOC) for branches and Provinces to share information collected from working within the communities to support overall strategic planning. The EOC will be set up and will remain functional



National Society EOC	from the period of the campaign to the announcement of results. Regular situation analysis and updates will be shared with staff, volunteers, and movement partners. Current actions also include the coverage of major rallies across the country. SAF Access training was conducted, targeting 15 volunteers per district targeting the identified hotspot areas with limited support from ICRC.
Activation Of Contingency Plans	The Election Preparedness and Response Contingency plans will be activated in line with the different scenarios set out in the plan, the response, in any case, will be guided as per the contingency plan and proposed action in the scenario planning. Messaging on the promotion of peace and tolerance pre-election, during and post-election will be continuously shared on all platforms. They will also raise community awareness of risks and appropriate actions through dissemination of the Public Awareness and Public Education DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) key messages as well as forming and training of community response teams.
Resource Mobilization	Zimbabwe Red cross Society is working with IFRC to Mobilize resources for the Elections preparedness and response.
Coordination	A multisectoral approach has been adopted in the initial collation of the information of the occurrence of political violence across the country. Hotspots are currently being identified and adjustments to the original plans will be done, if necessary, based on the number of reports that are being obtained.
Assessment	The ZRCS has not yet undertaken a comprehensive needs assessment so far given the everchanging environment. The ZRCS will utilise the National Civil Protection structures, Political Parties Election Dialogue platforms, Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, Police reports and media reports to conduct a needs assessment within the various provinces. This is done so as to cater for the different contexts in each Province and constituency. To determine the needs of vulnerable groups, an all-encompassing approach will be used. Priority will be given to persons with disabilities, the mobile and vulnerable, female, and child-headed households, women, the elderly, and people with chronic illnesses. Organisations for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in identifying some victims of political violence amongst PWDs. For the selection of people to be trained as information dissemination champions, the ZRCS will make use of its existing volunteer structures. Due to their advantageous placement along the nation's migratory routes, the Restoring Family Links (RFL) kiosks currently in operation will also be used.
	The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) has an existing pool of highly skilled and trained disaster response personnel who have received Emergency Response Unit (ERU) and Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) training. In addition, the NS has some capacity at community level in the form of fully trained response teams enabled through support from ECHO and other Movement actors. The NS also has immense experience for response to situations of violence arising from the 2008 and 2013 elections and their aftermath. A roster and emergency call out system needs to be developed for the National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT), Provincial Disaster Response

National Society Readiness	Teams (PDRT). These tools have been engaged in past response to floods, and hailstorms emergencies across the country. However, the quantities and quality of this capacity needs to be enhanced to meet the demands across the country. The Finnish Red Cross and Danish Red Cross has supported the NS with setting up the Emergency Operations Centre, a system with potential to enhance centralised command control of operations. More support is required to complete the system to its optimum functionality. While in the past the NS has been supported with branded bibs, there is need to enhance the quality of visibility in the form of distinctive uniforms for the respectability of the teams as they discharge their duties. Depleted response equipment [such as FA kits, stretchers] as well as outdated safer access awareness potentially militate against the NS fulfilling its mandate in this nature of crisis. Pre-positioning of response material will be urgently required. Indirectly, through resilience programmes the NS is fostering unity of purpose and cohesion which increases general community tolerance. Some of these programmes are in the hotspot areas such as Muzarabani. However, these dissemination activities will need to be scaled up across the country. The ZRCS is continuously scanning the hazard-scape indicators as the situation is likely to be very fluid towards, during and after the elections. The NS has already been covering the STAR rallies that have been held so far.
Community Engagement And Accountability	The ZRCS will ensure that the already developed CEA (Community Engagement and Accountability) tools, tailored to the Zimbabwe context, are adopted, and used to collect data relevant for planning CEA approaches and activities during implementation, gather feedback and make use of the feedback during the election preparedness and response operation. Prior to implementation of this DREF, ZRCS will conduct consultative meetings with various pollical, civil society and government actors aimed at discussing preferences on feedback channels and the type of questions that they would like to have answers on. A feedback mechanism will be put in place to get the necessary feedback from community members on issues related to the overall election response. This feedback will be shared at different platforms at constituency, district, provincial and national including the technical and sub technical working groups that have been established for the Election process. As specified in the CEA section, the feedback mechanisms, and tools for ZRCS are in place or already developed and used. They will need to be further adapted in the areas of the operations. Also, there are CEA and PGI induction and training/refresher to the volunteers during the pre-election period. On the ground, ZRCS will work with the police and volunteers on information gathering, and reporting at all levels as well as ensuring that government policies are respected and adhered to.

Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

IFRC	The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies (IFRC) will be consulted on the need to escalate operations through a DREF in as much as it will be key in Red Cross Movement Partners' coordination. The Movement partner's present in-country coordinate through regular Movement Coordination Meetings (MCM), and these will be instrumental in coordinating the planning and response to the elections; as well as information sharing as the situation evolves. Partner Operational meetings will be
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	scheduled in the short run, and with increased frequency especially towards the peak electioneering period. This forum will update and determine partner interests, contributions among other coordination issues.
ICRC	The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) has been present in the country over the last years supporting the NS on Restoration of Family Links (RFL) RedSafe and Cooperation, however, have since recently relocated to South Africa. also has a regional delegation in the country and is the key capacity for the planned targeted dissemination for the elections processes.
Participating National Societies	Upon activation of the envisaged plan, ZRCS will be working in collaboration with Partner National Societies (PNS) including the British, Danish and Finnish Red Cross. In the past, the PNSs have supported emergency response through in cash or in-kind contribution in operations such as the 2018 Elections, 2022 By-elections and other emergency operations. Some of the equipment procured in these operations are an existing capacity for the National Society which is acknowledged in this plan along with personnel capacity developed.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) is responsible for administering elections in coordination with other relevant bodies. ZEC has invited Election Observers locally and internationally to be part of the process. The EU, SADC, COMESA and AU are sending teams of Observers to the country. Civil Society actors are also involved in the process. Some of the Observers are already in the country while some will come a few days before the poll. The Department of Civil Protection (DCP) maintains regular coordination with relevant bodies in terms of needs and interventions. The national society will use its existing partnership with the Ministry of Health and Child Care on emergency medical services before, during, and after the elections. To date, DCP has shared and circulated the contingency plan with ZRCS and all the branches at risk of election violence are informed on the key interventions that would take place for the various scenarios outlined in the contingency plan.
UN or other actors	

Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission is responsible for administering elections in coordination with other relevant bodies. The International community has engaged the electoral commission through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and has deployed election observers in the country. ZRCS is an active member of the Civil Protection structures nationally at all levels and maintains regular coordination with relevant bodies in terms of needs and interventions. The leadership team is following-up and participating in some of the planning meetings convened by the Department of Civil Protection and Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). The national society will use its existing partnership with the Ministry of Health and Child Care on emergency medical services before, during, and after the elections. To date, DCP has shared and circulated the contingency plan with ZRCS and all the branches at risk of election violence are informed on the key interventions that would take place for the various scenarios outlined in the contingency plan.



Anticipated Needs



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

A humanitarian response to protect people's health, fundamental rights, and lives amidst a context of social unrest is required. It is necessary to provide guidance and support to affected people so they can obtain the essential information on the range of protection services offered by the appropriate entities responsible for guaranteeing and restoring their civil rights, as well as direct referrals. As a result, ZRCS will strengthen the volunteer's capacity in topics that will allow them to provide better services to the community in need. Also, civil unrest and violence bring together different groups of people, such as women, children, adolescents, persons with disabilities, or minority groups to significant security risks, especially if they do not receive timely medical attention. Considering the importance of protection issues, the ZRCS finds it essential that the volunteers know the minimum standards of PGI to provide priority and specialized attention to these groups in the different lines of response. It is considered necessary to map actors and referral routes for victims of gender-based violence and children and adolescents.



Community Engagement And Accountability

- Public information to people on respect and protection of the Red Cross emblem, humanitarian action, and the medical mission.
- Humanitarian role messages are diffused within the community.
- Volunteers and humanitarian staff have institutional visibility.

This type of event is usually associated with several information flow and misinformation as well, rumours' and behaviour of the communities not contributing to calm the situation or promote the access to the communities in different scenarios. The lack of understanding of humanitarian work by the actors involved can generate risks to the safety of the humanitarian personnel of the ZRCS, such as attacks on institutional engagement is a priority as well as engaging political actors in advance of the election and security services to ensure the risk communication and promote the right messages on RCRC that will enhance the access and safety.



Health

Election campaign rallies in hotspot areas may lead to violence which could result in injuries, separation of family members, and significant psychological effects.

As such, the population in these high-risk areas will need support in terms of first aid care, medical evacuation, and referral to hospitals in the event of serious cases. In addition, volunteers and staff involved in activities will be exposed to any potential tensions/fights which could result in injuries and deaths if health and safety recommendations are not respected. This could cause Public psychological trauma, in both the affected communities and the volunteers/staff responding thus requiring psychosocial support. Prepositioning of first aid kits and fuel to ensure the full capacity of ZRCS in the event of tensions. Certified First Training is also required for volunteers whose certification period has reached expiry. Prepositioning Protective, and Visibility Materials: The materials need to be distributed to hotspot branches before the elections. This will assist branches to provide first aid services during campaign rallies and during the voting period. In addition, visibility materials (ID cards, bibs, stickers, and flags) needs to be made available to the branches for security and visibility purposes, both playing



an essential role in this type of intervention.

There is an ongoing cholera outbreak in the country with cases high in Manicaland, Harare Metropolitan and Matabeleland South provinces. Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) is a priority to help reduce the adverse effects of cholera within the communities. The rallies provide a thriving ground for the spread of cholera. Given the crowds that are associated with major rallies, it is also imperative that cholera prevention measures need to be undertaken at these events to avoid such events becoming super-spreaders.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The allocation from DREF will contribute to put in place a readiness system and held early actions and immediate response post electoral through main actions that include: prepositioning of essential emergency relief, Preparedness and readiness of branches identified as hotspots districts (refer to the map) and enhance engagement and advocacy campaigns at community and institutional level ahead of the general elections scheduled for 23 August 2023.

To prepare for and when necessary, provide first aid and relevant humanitarian services to victims of conflict and non-conflict related humanitarian needs occurring before, during and after the harmonized election of 2023.

Operation strategy rationale

The operation is going to last approximately 3 months from 1 August 2023 to 31 October 2023 in 10 provinces. with focus on activities that will ensure :

- First aid and emergency stock prepositioning,
- NS preparedness and readiness of personnel
- Advocacy and engagement at community and institutional level that will enhance dissemination of ZRCS role.
- Response teams deployed to assist with first aid and conduct early actions in public events such as rallies, vote days etc.

The operation will also ensure that appropriate measures are taken at these events to ensure that people who attend are not exposed to the risk of cholera infection. Closer cooperation will be done with the Ministry of Health and Child Care and the Police to ensure adequate safety precautions are in place before each major Rally.

Following forecasted scenario analyzed by ZRCS, districts teams are mobilized for at 3 steps of actions as per below:

1) Preparedness of NS pre-election

a) Capacity strengthening of the Emergency response team.

Based on learning of 2018, NS will enhance reactivity by ensuring the readiness of a bigger team. Hence ZRCS will trained in total 1756 Volunteers already identified in respective hotspots.

To build the capacity of these teams:

- 600 TOTs (60 per province) will be selected and trained in PSS and Safer Access (SA) these will cascade the orientation to other team members during the district-based FA trainings. This will complement the recent trainings done through the British RC and ICRC support.
- A total of 1,750 will undergo first aid training organized at district level. PSS and SA orientation will be conducted as an addendum to these trainings to reduce the costs of mobilizing two distinct members. - Full ERT will be 1756 volunteers trained and ready to rotate.



b) Institutional engagement and ZRCS acceptance

This will cover advocacy for safe access and promotion of the neutrality of ZRCS in their action. ZRCS will ensure the different institutions involved in the election process acknowledge the objectives of this intervention and where possible, contribute to promote the NS intervention. The actions here will also count on engagement and right use of media briefings on RCRC principles but also advocate on their role as game changers.

C) Community engagement to enhance ZRCS image and engage community for acceptance and knowledge on RCRC mandate and principles. The coverage will prioritize the politically volatile areas (category map in this section) to enhance the NS mandate acceptance.

Advocacy on safe access will be also at community and institutional level that will enhance dissemination of ZRCS role. This will be done through: meetings, group discussions, teaching sessions, media engagement, branding of deployed team. Continuous presence of the NS from rallies to votes works also well on setting a clear consistency of NS that enhance acceptance. That learning will be used and strengthened with a visible team on all stage of this election period.

2) Mobilization of Emergency Response team

Under this DREF, the NS plans to increase coverage of the elections from 7% done in 2018 to 40% in 2023 with consideration of learnings and provided analysis above. This 40% will cover the areas highlighted as hotspots in the map attached in the 10 provinces. Hotspots are identified to be in and around the main rallies points, polling stations. Both usually in the biggest or main politics districts in the 10 provinces.

Among the 1756 volunteers trained, ZRCS will deploy in total 1548 volunteers to support the emergency assistance under this DREF operation.

The team will be deployed to:

- Monitor and ensure surveillance and regular reporting - twice a day minimum before election and more frequent during and after
- Provide first aid and PFA
- Assist with reference to nearby health centers when possible
- Promote NS image, principle and mandate through IEC and messages diffusion
- Support advocacy at community level, local authorities and electoral administration structure at district level. All these to contribute to acceptance and safe access.

ZRCS may adjust the deployment days beside the actual election date as we need to be on alert on announcement dates and beyond. The NS will update the scenario analysis at the end of the vote. As well, ZRCS may need to be responsive to emerging hot spots and not deploy all the 1548 after announcement.

2) Deployment and coverage of ERT following identified election timeline

Emergency first aid (FA) services will be required for any impact on communities during the period of campaign, voting days and post-electoral. The NS set-up for first aid will cover any risk of unrest incidence as well as for any voters facing conditions such as fainting due to heat stroke or hunger as they queue to vote. The ZRCS standby FA teams will provide First Aid services with special attention to the elderly and disabled if needed and ensuring that COVID-19 guidelines are being followed. In total 70 rallies to be covered by 140 ERT. Total of 820 volunteers.

a) Pre-elections rallies , campaign

- Coverage of 50 major rallies by 500 volunteers

Sporadic incidences of violence and potential stampedes at the rally venues are likely to result in injuries or fainting requiring emergency FA services. The NS will provide coverage of 50 biggest campaign rallies in the overall 10 targeted areas [defined –only those where the competing parties' presidential candidates and member of Parliament in perceived hot spots are headlining the rally]. 100 ERT (Emergency response team) response teams (500 volunteers) planned, 02 ERT per rally and 5 members per team.

- Coverage of other District/Provincial Rallies coverage by 120 volunteers

Similarly, this plan seeks to further support FA coverage of 20 other rallies conducted at provincial level or at district level. Often the attendance of these rallies is smaller as compared to the biggest rallies. Hence the planned



deployment of a smaller contingent of response teams comprising of 3 members per team. Consequently, only 120 volunteers (12 per province) for 20 rallies will be engaged for this part of the operation.

The campaign coverage will also foster the visibility of the RC, its mandate and role for enhanced acceptability at the lower levels. An actions to facilitate the acceptance during the vote days and maybe later.

b) During elections (Voting day), currently 23rd August.

In the 2018 elections, the coverage was only 7% [700] of the total 9,670 polling stations coverage. In 2023 elections, the NS plans to reach 25 hotspots at districts level per provinces target while an additional 8 teams will be deployed in Harare. Total of 258 polling stations to be cover during voting days. Between the 1756 Volunteers trained a pool of 1546 will be deployed during the full voting days.

- Deployment of the team to cover the polling stations in hotspots provinces targeted under this DREF. Each province will cover 25 hotspots. ZRCS will give priority to the areas identified as high hotspots.
- Four ZRCS staff members from the head office will be deployed to provinces to support the provinces while other teams will also be manning the command center at the ZRCS HQ and conducting routine monitoring to polling stations. The success of the operation also rests on robust logistics support. Given the NS' aged and depleted fleet this plan underscores this gap for potential support of 4 all-terrain vehicles.

c) Post vote for 5 days

100 ERT kept for the post vote (500 volunteers), from 23rd August until proclamation of results. This team will be the same mobilized for the rallies and will cover the main identified hotspots districts in the different provinces. This will be 700 volunteers maintain for the surveillance and monitoring team. From 24th to 28 August. The will be mobilized, managing and responding to alerts and emergency interventions following the need. Mainly in provincial capitals or districts that have reported the most alerts in the previous days.

After poll results announcement, if done on the 5 days as per existing text, team mobilized will stay on the field for those days. However, the cost for first aid and emergency rescue and first aid will need to be scaled-up in case of worst scenario with 1) extended period for results; 2) escalation of violence, contestation, demonstrations and killings reported. This plan will be immediately revised in the event of poll outcome results in further needs for RC services such as FA provision, emergency shelter provision, PSS and RFL. As such, continuous monitoring will be key in this operation.

The National Society should contemplate need to use its humanitarian diplomacy to lobby with the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and other stakeholders to allow vulnerable groups vote first without exposing them to long queues among other vagaries.

Given the hostile nature of the operating environment under which elections are held, there is need to make sure that all the volunteers involved are insured. More importantly, and where resources are not permitting, the NS should make sure that volunteers deployed as first line responders have their insurance in place, while those not insured played less risk back roles. Capacity building of staff and volunteers on Child Protection (CP), SGBV and PGI improve the capacity of ZRCS teams to prevent risks of exclusion during operations in as much as it strengthens teams to conduct safe identification and establishment referral systems to health care services should the need arise.

Advocacy and sensitization of the election candidates, local authorities, political parties and the general population on the values and principles of the Red Cross and the value of peaceful coexistence possibly is key for to the smooth running of the elections and for positioning the Red Cross to effectively respond under conditions of hostilities.

NS will work with the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), a national body whose mandate includes "developing mechanisms for early detection of areas of potential conflict and disputes and take appropriate preventive measures, to do anything incidental to the prevention of conflict and the promotion of peace." The messages will promote peaceful resolution of conflicts and actions to remedy such incidents based on previous experiences. The targeting will also include the political actors themselves to spread messages of tolerance amongst the participants of the different rallies across the country, even the one not covered by ZRCS.



Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The target will be the areas with the highest potential for violence which are mostly in the metropolitan provinces as well as some constituencies in the rural provinces during and later after the elections. The middle case and most likely scenario from NS contingency plan estimate approximately 10,000 people being affected by the elections especially in the electioneering period by abstaining, violence or through protests.

This operational plan will work with the middle case and most likely scenario to support 10,000 people, the significant caseload being people from the identified hotspot areas where violence risk is higher. However, in the event of the worst-case scenario, the operation will be revised, and the needs will grow necessitating a bigger humanitarian intervention.

During the election, it is likely that the most exposed population will be those attending rallies during the campaign period and those participating in the voting process on the polling days.

After the elections, if there is dissatisfaction among people with the outcome of the election results, violence may affect many people (including women, children, residents, security officers, and electoral officers) and the affected will be provided with assistance by the ZRCS volunteers and staff.

In any case, care will be taken to attend the vulnerable members of society such as the elderly, women, children and persons with disabilities first if they are amongst the victims of the violence.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Below are some of the projected needs which may arise and the possible response actions.

- Injured people [FA, PSS].
 - Internally Displaced People and returning migrants / asylum seekers, [RFL, shelter, reintegration, PSS].
 - People whose shelters have been destroyed [temporary shelter, PSS]
 - Priority will be given to the sick, elderly, children, women and persons with disabilities.
 - Sexual gender-based violence (PSS and link/refer to relevant service providers).
- The NS is likely to take 60% of the caseload since most non-state actors are likely to be barred from operating if the scenario for the 2008 election is to be repeated and given the sensitivity involved.

Total Targeted Population

Women:	3,000	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	2,500	35.00 %	65.00 %
Men:	2,700	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	1,800	7.00 %	
Total targeted population:	10,000		

Risk and security considerations

Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
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Possible violence during election could also exposed- Personnel are exposed to safety and security risks.	Use of emblem and other visibility items. Strict adherence to existing safety protocols and coordination with relevant authorities regarding security environment.
Increased workload for staff and volunteers already assigned to other interventions	A clear distribution of tasks will ensure that the coordination of the various interventions runs smoothly. The NS will refocus its strategy, prioritising hot spots to ensure it operates within its capacities.
Political and security tensions	Modules on Safer Access will be delivered to volunteers, with the application of SAF being emphasised.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Support for political parties is polarized on urban-rural and regional lines and underwritten by patronage. Youth unemployment and poverty are endemic thus always making demonstrations ripe. Since the turn of the new century (2000) to date, all elections held have been characterized by violent incidents, discontent, demonstrations and riots before and after the elections across the country. Sometimes post-election discontent lasts for several months after the elections because of disappointment with the election results and frequently because of hardship, lack of basic needs, and attainable life opportunities and rights. In real-time consideration, upon which this plan is rooted, August 23, 2023, elections could likely not be an exception. This notion is based on the sporadic occurrences of intra-party violence during the last by-elections in March 2022 and during the 2023 campaign period. Learning from the by-elections and General Elections over the past years associated with violence, especially in urban areas, the situation could lead to a direct impact on the population in areas that have been identified as hotspot areas, thus would need effective humanitarian support. The main opposition party has been raising issues regarding election coverage and some of the cases have spilled into the courts.

To reduce the risk of RCRC personnel falling victim to crime, violence, or road hazards active risk mitigation measures must be adopted. Security orientation and briefing for all teams prior to deployment will also be undertaken to help ensure the safety and security of response teams. Standard security protocols about general norms, cultural sensitivity, and an overall code of conduct will be put in place. Minimum-security requirements will be strictly maintained. ZRCS security plans will apply to all NS staff throughout the operation.

Area-specific Security Risk Assessment will be conducted for any operational area should any NS personnel deploy there; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented. Also, vehicles, especially ambulances, facilities, and personnel in the Provincial Branches. Mitigating these operational risks requires proper equipment, identification, visibility, life insurance activation, and humanitarian staff and volunteer training on safer access and operational security. Therefore, the personnel that will be involved in operations to assist with first aid, pre-hospital care, psychosocial support, and re-establishing family contact require protective gear to increase their safety.



Planned Intervention

	Protection, Gender And Inclusion	Budget	CHF 0
		Targeted Persons	10000
Indicators		Target	
## of training on safeguarding and inclusion (PGI, CEA, SGBV, Child safeguarding)		600	
## of NS volunteers have signed the Code of Conduct and have received a briefing in this regard		600	
# of volunteers trained on Minimum Protection Approach, Safe Referral, prevention and mitigation of violence, code of ethics, security policy Framework for Safer Access		600	
Priority Actions:		• Organize basic training for 600 volunteers and 20 supervisors on protection principles, including Child Protection (CP), Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) and Safe Identification and referral. • Mapping and strengthening and sharing of SGBV referral pathways volunteers and staff are briefed on and sign, 1. Code of conduct; 2. Child protection policy/guidelines; 3. PSEA. • Develop and disseminate targeted peace messages through Radio discussion programs to cover countrywide to trigger community peace promotion and coexistence.	

	Health	Budget	CHF 63,880
		Targeted Persons	10000
Indicators		Target	
Number of First Aid kits		150	
Number of first aid teams response teams deployed in 10 provinces		160	
Number of monitoring vehicles deployed		13	
		• Purchase and preposition 150 first aid kits for 10 provinces (15 per province at least). • Preposition a monitoring vehicle per province.	

Priority Actions:

- Fuel supply for 13 vehicles to be procured and dispatched to enable preparedness.
- Early actions:
 - Deploy 25 action teams per province to cover hotspots before, during and after the 2023 General Elections for a minimum of 10 days from 21 to 30 August 2023. Adjustable to effective dates.
 - Provide PSS to people affected by elections violence.
 - Provide PSS to staff and volunteers.
 - Establish referral pathways for complex cases.
 - Provide first Aid support to victims of violence before, during and after elections.


Community Engagement And Accountability
Budget

CHF 14,880

Targeted Persons

10000

Indicators**Target**

#coordination meetings conducted with involved stakeholders

20

#OF community meetings conducted

50

#of media engaged

5

Number of polling station reports generated (Target: at least 10 reports)

10

% of community feedback responded to

100

Priority Actions:

- Orientation to volunteers on the management of the situation monitoring room including feedback and rumor management.
- Ensure promotion of peace messages and RCRC principle to promote tolerance and acceptance of ZRCS during all along the election's steps.
- Media Engagement on the role of Red Cross before, during and after Elections.
- Community feedback systems (including rumor and/or perception tracking) are established, and feedback acted upon and used to improve the operation.
- Volunteer feedback systems (including rumor and/or perception tracking) are established, and feedback acted upon and used to improve the operation.
- Online monitoring of social media comments and publications.
- Engagement with electoral institutions and stakeholders involved in the coverage of the campaign and elections rallies to promote the diffusion of peace messages and tolerance in all the process across the district.
- Engaging community representative to promote peace messages in public places, social and religious assemblies during the campaign until a peaceful electoral process. Community leaders,



social and religious representatives will be involved in discussions, messages will be promoted directly in events and rallies and NS will use IEC to the different polling points and rallies events.



National Society Strengthening

Budget

CHF 80,608

Targeted Persons

1600

Indicators

Target

%of rallies covered

40

Number of ERT during voting day

250

Number of ERT during pre and post voting

140

Number of volunteers trained and deployed to provide care to persons affected/injured before, during and after the 2023 General Elections

1750

Number of volunteers trained in PFA

1750

Number of ERT team deployed

258

Priority Actions:

NS will ensure smooth internal communication, adequate volunteer management, as well as clear information and security management. First aid services and psychosocial support will be provided at main rallies as well as other major rallies during the campaign period. During the election period, volunteers will be mobilized at selected Polling Centers to ensure readiness to respond to routine and election-related first aid needs, while support will be provided to volunteers at polling centres as circumstances require. The operation will include the procurement of fuel, first aid kits, and visibility equipment.

Readiness

- Ensure volunteers' safety and well-being and insured 1,700 volunteers involved in the operation.
- Provide complete briefings on volunteers' roles and the risks they face.
- Provide psychosocial support to volunteers.
- Ensure volunteers are aware of their rights and responsibilities.
- Ensure volunteers are properly trained in Early actions. Volunteers will have a 1-day refresher training 1 week before the general elections.
- Organize deployment for 1,548 volunteers/staff per province in all 10 provinces. covering hotspots districts identified across the provinces.
- In total 140 ERT will be constituted for rallies and post voting days. 100 of a team of 5 volunteers covering major rallies and polling points and 40 of a team of 3 volunteers covering medium rallies.



	- During the voting, a total of 1,548 Volunteers will be deployed to cover 40% of the polling points during the day of election. At least 250 team of 5 to 7 volunteers depending on updated analysis following indicators from rallies period. - ERT will be present for estimated 7 days from 21st to 28 August. • The second phase of deployment will be during the run-off (Scheduled for 2 October if necessary) and will be through the scale-up of the current operation. Lessons learned and experience sharing workshop (virtually) will be conducted and will include the learnings to inform or revise the contingency plan.
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	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 737
		Targeted Persons	1600
Indicators		Target	
Priority Actions:		• Support on advocacy and coordination. • Monitoring. • Report delivery.	

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

1,750 Volunteers, 20 supervisors including staff in provinces will be involved. 10 Personnel at the HQ- will be mobilized to support and coordinate.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

No

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

Procurement, transportation, fuels:

The ZRCS project vehicles will be assigned to the operation. If additional vehicles are required, IFRC Global Fleet Unit has several VRP vehicles available in the country that can be rented for short term needs. Alternatively, as in the past, ICRC can also be approached for vehicle support. Another available option will be to hire the transport needed. Fuel and maintenance costs will have to be taken into consideration. Most importantly, the proposed two ambulances will be used to transport the injured where possible.

How will this operation be monitored?

Information management and branch daily monitoring:

The information will be collected by the team at the National EOC from branches to HQ. Daily updates made by volunteers to the provincial supervisors are shared to the national team that consolidate for strategic decision making and update to partners after data collection. Information and the interval will be shortened on election day and during the poll announcement period. NS will set a regular update every 4H from branches ERT to their respective supervisors.

Decision-Making Support:

- Timely reporting will enable the Operations Manager to make informed decisions based on current information.

- The PMER office will provide updates on the progress of activities and any changes in the ground situation.
- Reporting will include key findings, challenges, and recommended actions to address emerging needs. By focusing on these key elements, the PMER office will support evidence-based reporting, accountability, and compliance while providing crucial information for decision-making during the DREF election preparedness operation.

Evidence-Based Reporting:

- The PMER office will prioritize gathering information on progress and the evolving situation on the ground.
- Information will be collected through regular monitoring activities, field visits, and engagement with operational teams.
- Reporting will be immediate and concise, providing accurate and relevant data to the Operations Manager.

Accountability and Compliance:

- The PMER office will uphold accountability by ensuring adherence to established guidelines and procedures.
- Compliance with reporting requirements from the IFRC and other stakeholders will be a priority.
- Data collection methods will be streamlined to minimize administrative burden and maximize efficiency.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.

Profiling and documentation of the response initiative. Internal communication and external communication will be managed with media and press releases conducted as necessary. WhatsApp groups will be set up for easy reference on the elections and updates on situations within provinces. Action pictures will be immediately filtered through and placed on all websites. Event-based operational reports will be shared with the partners by the communications department. A documentary of the operation will be produced for future references and lessons learnt.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRZW022 - Zimbabwe Red Cross Society ELECTION PREPAREDNESS

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	78,761
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	63,880
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	14,880
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	81,344
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	737
National Society Strengthening	80,608
TOTAL BUDGET	160,105

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[Click here for the reference](#)

