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Emergency appeal operation update

Zimbabwe: Food Insecurity

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRZW006
Operation update n°3
22 March 2013

Period covered by this Ops Update:
29 January 2013 - 27 February 2013

Appeal target (current): CHF 1,290,342. [<click here to view the interim financial report >](#)

Appeal coverage: 33% (Excluding DREF funds) [<click here to view the updated donor response report, or here for contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This [Emergency Appeal](#) was launched on 10 December 2012 for CHF 1,290,342 for a 9 month period to provide immediate assistance to 10, 000 beneficiaries.



Picture of beneficiaries receiving their food rations in Nkayi / ZRCS photo

- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 120,000 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) in its response.
- [Operations Update No.1](#) was issued on 8 January 2013 while [Operations Update No. 2](#) was issued on 30 January 2013 giving progress of activities.

Summary: The ZRCS has been implementing the Food Insecurity Operation in Nkayi district since December 2012. The funding received was prioritised for the procurement of food items, vegetable seeds, sugar beans (agriculture), latrine construction and borehole rehabilitation. Collaboration between the district authorities and the ZRCS staff and volunteers worked very well during the food distribution, ensuring that the distribution points were orderly. Each of the 2,000 household's received food hampers worth USD 27. It is important to note that mealie meal given was milled and ready for use, a factor that assisted beneficiaries who did not have money for milling the maize into flour.

The food security situation has worsened in the target district as no significant rains were received in the month of February 2013. This affected the crops which were already in the vegetative stage and it is foreseen that the harvest will not be sufficient.

To date, 100 bags of cement and borehole parts have been prepositioned for the rehabilitation of 20 out of the 30 targeted boreholes and are stored at District Development Fund (DDF) offices. Further assessments for citing of 10 more boreholes have been concluded, in collaboration with DDF.

Future plans include training on Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for the target community in the month of March.

Contributions to this Emergency Appeal have been received from American Red Cross, British Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Red Cross of Monaco and the Swedish Red Cross. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks for their contribution.

The situation

It is worth noting that food security situation has worsened in Nkayi district, as no significant rains were received during February 2013, affecting crops which were already at the vegetative stage. The crop progression has been greatly affected. Lack of rainfall has made it difficult for crops to compete for moisture with weeds. It has also been difficult for farmers to apply fertilizers as its application might further increase their losses. AGRITEX staff are encouraging farmers to weed their fields cautiously to avoid exposing the plants' roots to the increasing hot weather.

Zimbabwe held a referendum on its new constitution on 16 March 2013 and the Nkayi District was included as part of the exercise. Though the current political situation is calm, all activities need to be implemented diligently. District level ZRCS staff and volunteers have been sensitized on the need to respect the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's principles of neutrality and independence during the referendum. They have also been instructed to ensure that the food distribution and other planned activities such as vegetable seeds distribution and rehabilitation of borehole are not associated with any political parties regarding the referendum and the up coming national elections. The neutrality and independence of the ZRCS in providing community humanitarian assistance has been shared with the local administrative and political leadership.

Coordination and partnerships

The IFRC Southern Africa Regional Representation, Zimbabwe Country Representation and the Regional Logistics Unit in Dubai have continued to provide administrative and logistical support for effective implementation of the emergency operation.

In Nkayi district, ZRCS worked with World Vision in beneficiary identification to safeguard against double counting¹ of households. The Social Services Department has been supportive by ensuring smooth flow throughout the distribution exercise. The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society has closely worked with Social Services Department and AGRITEX in the beneficiary identification process and food distribution. The District Development Fund (DDF) has provided technical support to ZRCS in the identification of boreholes to be rehabilitated during the implementation period.

Local food suppliers have been delivering quality food items in a timely manner. In view of increasing food prices, suppliers entered into an agreement with IFRC to maintain the agreed price levels throughout the distribution period.

National Society Capacity Building:

IFRC and ZRCS work together to strengthen the monitoring of the programme. Tools have been developed and adopted for the field activities to ensure effective monitoring of the entire operation. Post distribution monitoring is on-going for the first phase of the distribution, which is coming to an end.

¹ beneficiaries receiving food assistance from multiple sources

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards outcomes

To date, 2,000 households in the three operational wards have received food hampers composed of 30kgs mealie meal, two kgs pulses, two litres vegetable oil, and one bar laundry bar soap. The project initially planned to give 10kg maize per household, however, guided by the Disaster Relief Committee for Nkayi, it was recommended that we increase the maize rations to 30kgs per household. Feedback from beneficiaries so far, is that the composition of the food hampers is appreciated. The mealie meal (maize meal) distributed attracted no milling cost instead of the traditional maize grain. The laundry bar was appreciated as it is multi-purpose (can be used for bathing, laundry and household cleaning, thereby enhancing good hygiene practices).

100 bags of cement and borehole hardware were prepositioned for the rehabilitation of 20 boreholes and are being stored at DDF offices. Further assessments for citing of 10 more boreholes have been concluded in collaboration with DDF.

Assessments and identification of beneficiaries of latrine construction are in progress. Priority is being given to most vulnerable households using community driven selection criteria.

The community has been engaged to provide assistance to labour constrained households especially in terms of brick moulding for latrine construction.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
Outcome 1: Immediate food needs of 2,000 households (10,000 beneficiaries) in Nkayi district of Matebeleland North Province is met for four months.)	
Outputs	Activities planned
Supplementary food baskets are distributed to 10,000 vulnerable people For four months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop beneficiary targeting, strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance • Preparation of monthly food distribution and uploading plan. • Procurement of 420 MT of maize meal, 32 MT of oil and 72 MT of pulses. • Community notification of distribution date and time; • Distribution of monthly food packs (10.5kg maize, 1.8kg beans and 0.75kg oil) to 10,000 beneficiaries for 4 months. • Monitoring and evaluation of distribution activities • Train 20 volunteers on food distribution (beneficiary identification, targeting and post distribution monitoring). • Reporting.

Progress towards outcomes

Relief Distribution:

Subsequent to the findings regarding the rapid emergency needs coupled with consultations with the local authorities, it has been agreed to provide beneficiaries with 30kgs mealie meal, 2kgs pulses, two litres of vegetable oil, and one bar laundry bar soap worth USD 27 per household. The country is currently experiencing shortages of maize and mealie meal.

Anecdote

Thank you for the food I have received today, it will go a long way in my household. I was having a nightmare fearing you were going to give us maize as I did not even have money for paying the milling cost.

Beneficiary in Seshange (Ward 3)

In close collaboration with the Ministry of Social Services and the World Vision, a beneficiary targeting strategy was developed while the registration system was utilised in the preparations for the distributions carried out from 20 and 22 February 2013. The February food distribution and uploading plans were prepared and shared with local authorities before the actual distributions.

Beneficiary training was done for 20 volunteers on the key principles of humanitarian assistance. The volunteers were also trained in the seven Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross. The training also inducted the beneficiaries on the operation.

2000 households received food in the three target wards (wards 3, 4 and 20) as follows;

- Ward 20-890 households
- Ward 3-510 households
- Ward 4-600 households

Continuous verification for deserving households is being done. The distribution process was monitored and the minimum expected standards for a distribution followed. The post distribution monitoring is currently on-going and findings will be shared in the next operation update. This monitoring will be done to collect information on how the food was utilised in the households.

Challenges or constraints:

The greatest challenge experienced was that of limited supply of maize and mealie meal.

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

Outcome 2: Reduced food insecurity among 2,000 affected rural households through inputs support and training.	
Outputs results)	Activities planned
Productive assets/inputs, through the distribution of seeds and tools, for primary production and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous and detailed assessment, of food security, nutrition and livelihoods are carried out. • Distribution of small grain seeds, fertilisers and maize seeds to 2000 households • Distribution of tools (each farm will receive four watering cans, two Levelling rakes, two hoes and two wheelbarrows). • 100 lead farmers (selected from the beneficiaries) trained to cascade crop

<p>training are provided in accordance with the seasonal calendar.</p>	<p>production, climate change and adaptation and market linkage training to 2,000 farmers at a ratio of 1 lead farmer to 20 farmers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiary training in seed selection and preservation to 100 lead farmers. • Distribution of vegetable seed packs to garden beneficiaries to 100 households. • Tracking system / monitoring of progress for the targeted farmers
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Progress towards outcomes

Vegetable seeds and bean seeds have been procured for distribution in February. Redistribution training on crop production, climate change and adaptation, market linkages for 2000 farmers will be conducted to targeted households in March 2013. The training will be an on-going exercise. The lead farmers have since been identified. Small grain and maize seed have not been prioritised for procurement in the initial stages of the operation as the next planting season will be in October-December 2013.

Challenges

The district received no meaningful rainfall and in view of this, during the just ended rainy season, the AGRITEX officials are concerned about the possibility of a poor harvest. As a result of prospective poor rainfall, trainings are being conducted on conservation agriculture and water harvesting techniques to improve the expected yields.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

<p>Outcome 3: Access to safe and clean water for domestic and livestock consumption, and improved hygiene practices and access to basic sanitation facilities for 10,000 beneficiaries in Nkayi district is increased.</p>	
<p>Outputs (expected results)</p>	<p>Activities planned</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,000 people have access to safe water. • Increased access to water for livestock. • Increased knowledge in hygiene. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous assessments of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation. • 50 boreholes rehabilitated with water troughs constructed at each borehole. • 20 volunteers trained in participatory health and hygiene education. • 400 household latrines constructed in selected vulnerable communities. • Community level cascading of participatory health hygiene education.

Progress towards outcomes

Thirty boreholes have so far been identified for rehabilitation; this exercise was done in consultation with the District Development Fund (DDF) as well as the community. The additional 20 boreholes will be identified for rehabilitation once the operations funding levels have improved 100 bags of cement and hardware for the rehabilitation of boreholes have been procured. The construction /rehabilitation works were delayed due to the procurement, which needed to go through the tender process.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Outcome 4: Community resilience is strengthened through disaster risk reduction activities focusing on early warning systems and enhanced coping mechanisms/strategies.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affected communities are better prepared to respond to food insecurity problems resulting from weather induced emergencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,000 households trained in early warning systems. 2,000 households trained in climate change awareness and adaptation. Develop one district level contingency plan and 40 communities based early warning systems.

Progress towards outcomes

Activities under the DRR outcome are yet to start and are scheduled for later, contingent upon funding.

Logistics

Relief and non-relief items have been successfully prepositioned for the emergency operation. The delays experienced in procurement were as a result of unavailability of mealie meal locally and in the region. WatSan hardware procurement process took 10 days to complete.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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 non-violence and peace.

MDRZW006 - Zimbabwe - Food Insecurity

Appeal Launch Date: 19 dec 12

Appeal Timeframe: 10 dec 12 to 10 sep 13

Interim Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/12-2013/2
Budget Timeframe	2012/12-2013/9
Appeal	MDRZW006
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget	1,290,342					1,290,342	
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
Income							
<u>Cash contributions</u>							
<i>American Red Cross</i>	45,905					45,905	
<i>British Red Cross</i>	115,000					115,000	
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>	42,600					42,600	
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>	216,470					216,470	
C1. Cash contributions	419,976					419,976	
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	120,000					120,000	
C4. Other Income	120,000					120,000	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	539,976					539,976	
D. Total Funding = B + C	539,976					539,976	
Coverage = D/A	42%					42%	

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance	0					0	
C. Income	539,976					539,976	
E. Expenditure	-102,223					-102,223	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	437,753					437,753	

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2012/12-2013/2
Budget Timeframe	2012/12-2013/9
Appeal	MDRZW006
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		1,290,342					1,290,342	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Food	405,880	51,168				51,168	354,712	
Seeds & Plants	142,500	6,766				6,766	135,734	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	113,250	18,140				18,140	95,110	
Teaching Materials	2,000						2,000	
Utensils & Tools	30,000						30,000	
Total Relief items, Construction, Su	693,630	76,075				76,075	617,555	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	1,000						1,000	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	1,000						1,000	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage	24,000						24,000	
Distribution & Monitoring	6,875						6,875	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	94,642	3,285				3,285	91,357	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	125,517	3,285				3,285	122,232	
Personnel								
International Staff	96,000						96,000	
National Staff	48,600	4,386				4,386	44,214	
National Society Staff	99,882	7,495				7,495	92,387	
Volunteers	16,940	84				84	16,856	
Total Personnel	261,422	11,965				11,965	249,457	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	42,650	568				568	42,082	
Total Workshops & Training	42,650	568				568	42,082	
General Expenditure								
Travel	14,000						14,000	
Information & Public Relations	10,220	1,203				1,203	9,017	
Office Costs	36,500	287				287	36,213	
Communications	12,150	888				888	11,262	
Financial Charges	14,500	144				144	14,356	
Total General Expenditure	87,370	2,521				2,521	84,849	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		1,570				1,570	-1,570	
Total Operational Provisions		1,570				1,570	-1,570	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	78,753	6,239				6,239	72,514	
Total Indirect Costs	78,753	6,239				6,239	72,514	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	1,290,342	102,223				102,223	1,188,119	
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,188,119				1,188,119		