



Zimbabwe Humanitarian Situation Report

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Situational Update

- Malaria** deaths have claimed more than 125 lives in health institutions of Matabeleland North province in the past four months. An average of 34,000 cases of malaria were reported weekly mostly in Binga, Hwange and Tsholotsho. Mutasa district recorded the highest number of cases with no death and did not reach outbreak proportions. The Ministry of Health and Child Welfare (MoHCW) confirmed that the malaria situation was not an outbreak, it is under control. The major worry is only that year 2006 has a general increase in the number of malaria cases and deaths compared to the same period last year due to low sanitation levels (and possibly heavy rains). The Health ministry has also reported that due to a high number of disease outbreaks than anticipated this year, allowances for health workers participating in disease control have run out, which affects disease monitoring and health promotion. Humanitarian partners working in specific districts are called upon to augment financial support to the disease monitoring and health promotion within their districts of intervention.
- Avian Flu** - There are no reported cases of the H5N1 virus deadly to humans in Zimbabwe, although the outbreak in Africa is raising concern. The country has not yet recorded any human case. Avian Influenza antibodies (H5N2) were detected in Ostriches in Matabeleland province during routine surveillance months ago. No animal was reported to be sick due to the infection. A total of 204 cases and 113 deaths have been recorded in the world since the outbreak started. Migratory birds and legal and illegal trade are responsible for the spread of the deadly H5N1 virus. In Africa the virus has been positively identified in humans in Egypt with (12 cases, 4 deaths)
- Cholera** - According to the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, no new cholera case was reported from the affected areas since the 25/04/06 cholera update. The cholera situation is said to be under control at the moment but there is no complete break of the outbreak as yet. Surveillance is continuing in Kariba district.

NATIONAL CHOLERA UPDATE 27-04-06 FROM MoHCW & WHO

PROVINCE	CONFIRMED CASES	DEATHS	TOTAL CASES	CUMULATIVE CASES (2006)
MANICALAND	6	14	273	273
MIDLANDS	1	5	139	139
MASH. WEST	5	2	15	15
HARARE	34	4	78	78
MASH. EAST	13	22	387	387
MASVINGO	8	1	11	11
CHITUNGWIZA	1	0	1	1
TOTAL	68	48	904	904

- On 30 April, **WFP** ended its vulnerable group feeding programme as planned, due to the ongoing harvest. The programme, implemented in partnership with 11 Cooperating Partner NGOs, has been providing 3.6 million people with a monthly food ration. The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) will carry out a joint

vulnerability assessment with stakeholders in May 2006, with findings scheduled for release in July 2006. The ZimVAC findings will guide programmatic decisions through identification of vulnerable areas, quantification of assistance requirements and indicators to assist in vulnerable household selection.

Maize harvesting is ongoing in many parts of the country, resulting in improved food security in most northern and southern districts. In contrast, Kariba district appears to be experiencing below normal harvest and villagers have reported non-availability of maize grain in the market. Local authorities around the country expect a better harvest than last year but indicated that areas of deficit will remain and that populations in some communal areas are likely to exhaust cereal stocks before the end of the year.

In May 2006, WFP plans to provide 1,000,000 beneficiaries with close to 7,000 mt of food through targeted activities, including school feeding, support for orphans and home based care for the chronically ill, and urban feeding programmes.

Summary of Media Reports

- **ARVs** – “The National Pharmaceutical Company (Natpharm) is left with less than a month’s supply of anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs for 20,000 people that are on the national programme (run by public health institutions), Natpharm acting managing director Mr Charles Mwaramba told the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Health and Child Welfare in Harare. He said Natpharm had applied for more money from the Global Fund to purchase ARVs for a further 25,000 people in need but it would take some months before those drugs are made available. Natpharm stores have 342 different types of drugs against a requirement of 699 types. Exchange rate instability, Mr Mwaramba said, made it difficult for the company to plan ahead”.
– <http://www.herald.co.zw/inside.aspx?sectid=2753&cat=1>.
Deputy Minister of Health and Child Welfare, Dr. Edwin Muguti confirmed that drug stocks were that low and needed to be replenished urgently. He however lamented that the targeted sanctions imposed on the country by the EU, USA, Canada and New Zealand have negatively affected forex inflows thereby hampering efforts to procure the drugs and their raw materials, which worsens the suffering of ordinary people. He was answering questions on Voice of America.
- **Water and Sanitation** - 60 percent of the households in rural areas have access to safe drinking water, compared to 70% in 1999. Only 40 percent of the rural households covered in the current joint GoZ/UNICEF survey use safe sanitary facilities, compared to 60% in 1999. “Access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation has been deteriorating in recent years. The survey, according to Unicef and Government, provided a solid baseline to monitor the National Plan of Action for orphans and other vulnerable children.”
– <http://www.herald.co.zw/inside.aspx?sectid=2749&cat=1>
- **Maize market** – “Government increased the maize producer price for the 2006/2007 selling season from \$2,2 million to \$31,3 million a tonne. Farmers have started delivering maize to the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) depots countrywide. The new producer price more than doubles the \$15 million a tonne, which farmers' associations were advocating for (and gives the farmers a) 25 percent return after allowing for overhead costs.”
– <http://allafrica.com/stories/printable/200604130512.html>

- **Illegal structures to be demolished** – “Government has condemned illegal structures that are mushrooming in Harare in the aftermath of Operation Murambatsvina/Restore Order and said owners of such structures must immediately demolish them”.
- <http://allafrica.com/stories/200604140259.html>
- **HIV&AIDS underfunded** – “A report released by an international humanitarian NGO, in January this year, said the over-dramatisation of the food situation in Zimbabwe had clouded other important issues such as HIV/Aids, which were not receiving adequate funding. The report noted that the Global Fund had excluded Zimbabwe until May 2005 when a first grant of US\$10 million was eventually provided against a request of more than US\$300 million by the Government. Even with this grant, Zimbabwe remains the least assisted country with slightly more than US\$1 per capita provided through global funding. "In spite of one of the highest HIV/Aids prevalence and death toll in the world, the health sector, and primarily HIV/Aids, remains largely under-funded compared to other countries in the region.”
- <http://allafrica.com/stories/200604280486.html>

Assessments

- Christian Care undertook a rapid damage and needs assessment following the 23 February earthquake and its aftershocks in Chipinge. The secondary data collected from the District Administrator’s office, the National Civil Protection Unit, the Red Cross, the Central Statistics Office, the Chipinge Rural District Council, the Mount Selinda Mission, Department of Social Welfare and councilors of wards 16, 21, 19 and 17 showed that there was indeed a need to gather more information and come up with a database of the tremor’s effects.

Information gathered from these sources indicated that, some school buildings collapsed and some were left with dangerous cracks. Some hut that were cracked by the tremor cracked eventually fell down due to heavy rains. Most rural institutions’ sanitary facilities were damaged. Some families were left with inhabitable structures which they are using because of lack of alternative accommodation. There are people that were trapped in their houses during the tremor and were injured. Some of the people were hospitalized at Chipinge, St. Peters, Chikore, Mt. Selinda hospitals and some clinics in the district. In the eastern area of Chipinge, some granaries with food were also destroyed.

Sixteen wards of the district were found to be affected as shown in the table of assessment results below.

WARD NUMBER & POP'N	HOUSES CRACKED/ INHABITABLE	HOUSES BROUGHT DOWN	SANITARY FACILITIES BROUGHT DOWN	FAMILIES WITH NO SHELTER	PERSONS HOSPITALIZED	PERSONS NEEDING HOSPITALZTN	SCHOOL BUILDINGS INHABITABLE (BLOCKS)	SCHOOL TOILETS COLLAPSED (HOLES)	CLINIC TOILETS COLLAPSED (HOLES)	WATER PNTS IN WARD NEEDING REHAB
1-6751	248	37	66	8	8	8	3	13	0	5
2-7991	115	11	204	3	0	21	7	21	0	4
8-5086	3	9	15	6	0	0	4	6	0	3
7-14086	22	1	13	1	0	0	7	9	0	2
12-4052	21	46	54	4	1	0	1	1	2	3
14-5406	28	1	11	5	0	1	6	2	0	6
15-8464	48	29	56	11	0	0	3	14	1	6
16-12625	12	72	228	5	4	0	2	12	0	5
17-10925	20	9	9	9	2	0	1	54	0	3
18-10093	153	12	11	11	0	0	3	24	0	3
19-13940	252	80	56	29	0	16	35	10	2	4
20-17293	3	6	12	2	0	0	8	20	0	3
21-9771	18	6	67	2	0	2	2	15	0	5
22-10113	2	29	224	6	2	2	0	0	2	7
23-10426	93	36	48	6	4	9	0	11	0	5
29-12187	11	13	16	7	3	3	3	15	0	8
30-3782	13	12	5	2	8	1	0	1	4	7
TOTALS	1,062	409	1,095	117	32	63	85	228	11	79

- The joint government, UN, NGO and Donors, Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) is currently being carried out. The 2006 assessment will include maternal and child nutrition/health. A summary of dates is as follows:
 - Training of supervisors on how to administer the questionnaires during pre-testing (24 April)
 - Pre-testing of questionnaire in rural Mhondoro (25 April)
 - Feedback and modification of questionnaires (26 April)

Training of trainers took place 4 May. Provincial level trainings scheduled to take place the week of 8 May. Fieldwork for the rural assessment will take place 12 – 21 May, resources permitting. A report of the findings is expected to be presented to the Cabinet Committee on 19 June with the final reported being expected to be ready on 30 June 2006.

The urban assessment is expected to take place from July to August 2006.

The ZimVAC findings will guide programmatic decisions through identification of vulnerable areas, quantification of assistance requirements and indicators to assist in vulnerable household selection.

- CFSAM:** The GoZ has withdrawn the request for a Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) to Zimbabwe. The last independent crop assessment in Zimbabwe was conducted in 2003.

Coordination and Response

- WHO and UNICEF have donated insecticide treated nets to Matebeleland North province for distribution to people at risk of the Malaria mosquito.
- UNICEF received a request from GoZ on 3 May to procure ARVs through Copenhagen Procurement Centre
- 830 people are under ARV treatment in Buhera district with support from MSF Luxembourg. The target for April was to reach 1,000 people while working towards an ultimate target of 2,500 people in need of the drugs.
- Surveillance for Avian Flu has been stepped up on poultry farms and in rural areas, and CVL have been refurbished. A National Preparedness Plan has been developed involving (MoHCW, Department of Livestock and Veterinary Services, Zimbabwe Revenue Authority, Immigration, Parks, FAO, WHO, UNICEF), while the main commercial poultry companies are registered as bio-secure (Avian Influenza free) through (compartmentalization).

FAO contributed to the GoZ efforts by rehabilitating one incinerator, providing 4 burners, protective clothing, sampling bottles, laboratory reagents & chemicals, to the amount of about USD 33,000.

- On April 12, WFP and its cooperating partner Christian Care resumed food distributions to more than 6300 beneficiaries at Hopley Farm on the outskirts of Harare.
- April, the last month for the vulnerable group feeding (VGF) programme, WFP provided a half ration (5 kgs of cereals and 1 kg of pulses) to more than 3.5 million beneficiaries. With the onset of the harvesting season, food distributions to under the VGF programme discontinued as of 30 April 2006 awaiting ZimVAC results that should determine the amounts of food and need on the ground.
- Christian Care has developed a US\$1,449,552.70 proposal to respond to the needs of people affected by the 23 February earthquake in 16 wards of Chipinge district. The local NGO plans to respond to the emergency over the next 18 months with the following interventions;
 - **Construction of 2 roomed houses-** 70 units to cater for 70 affected households.
 - **Tents – 30 units.** These will be needed immediately to give shelter to those families left with totally no housing or with structures too dangerous for housing. The cold winter has just started.
 - **Water – rehabilitation** of three water points per ward to enhance use of clean water and assist in curbing cholera and other sanitary related diseases. This will total 48 points.
 - **440 toilet holes** – in 16 wards will average 15 toilets per ward for households and a total of 200 holes for institutions. The families that will have got housing units will have the first preference.
 - **Medical assistance – 22** people need immediate medication. This component will only assist those people who have no means to pay for their medical expenses.
 - **Food to the affected households.** Ninety households, who are not receiving food from any other source and whose food reserves were destroyed by the effects of the tremor will need food assistance.
 - **Training**
 - Builders for housing units and toilets (48 participants).
 - Psycho – social support training for church and community leaders (40 participants)
 - Training in disaster preparedness (32 participants)
 - Training in health and hygiene (250 participants)

- An alternative to sugar traditionally used in the communities to prepare the Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) needed to treat dehydration is urgently needed. Availability of sugar on the market has been erratic since 2001. No suitable substitute to sugar has been development at the moment. The Health Working Group has suggested that ORS sachets from the national pharmaceutical company NatPharm be stocked closer to the communities, even in homes for easy access.
- **Seed & Fertiliser:** According to information from seed houses, at least 43,000MT of maize seed (both OPV and Hybrid) will be available for the 2006/07 season. Current price of AN fertiliser is ZW\$50-55 million/MT.

Field Missions and Advocacy

- WFP hosted a visit by a Ministry of Education, Sport and Culture Officer, on special assignment from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, to WFP supported school feeding programmes in Mutare. The officer sought to verify the positive impact of the programme. During the visit, the Education Officer proved helpful in resolving several outstanding issues at the school level, such as transparency, proper record keeping by school authorities and community participation. The mission concluded that the school feeding programme has assisted in increasing enrolment and attendance rates, while also addressing the food insecurity situation in vulnerable districts. Noting the effectiveness of the school feeding programme, the Provincial education authorities submitted a request, to the Ministry through the Education Officer, for a budget to establish a government supported school feeding programme.
- At a ceremony on April 5 to mark the donation of 2,000 metric tons of rice to WFP by the Government of Algeria, a cabinet-level official from the Government of Zimbabwe thanked WFP and donor governments for extending their support and assistance to vulnerable communities in order to avert starvation in Zimbabwe.

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