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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Zimbabwe – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #8, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

July 16, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated June 19, 2009.

BACKGROUND

Humanitarian conditions for most Zimbabweans remain difficult due to the country's economic crisis, limited access to basic services, the effects of HIV and AIDS, poorly maintained infrastructure, political instability, and violence. Although national incidence rates have stabilized, cholera remains a concern due to the potential for localized outbreaks. Previous Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) policies and corruption, as well as a decade of economic decline characterized by hyperinflation and high unemployment, have resulted in poor infrastructure for agricultural production, water and sanitation, and power generation. Although food security in Zimbabwe has improved in 2009, relief agencies predict the need for a large-scale food assistance program starting in August or September, when food stores from the April 2009 harvest will likely be exhausted. Relief agencies provided emergency food assistance to more than 5 million people per month between December 2008 and March 2009.

On February 11, 2009, the Zimbabwe African National Union–Patriotic Front (ZANU–PF) and Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) implemented the September 2008 Global Political Agreement, forming a transitional government. However, tensions remain regarding ongoing police detentions of political activists, appointments to government posts, negotiations to draft a new constitution, and ongoing farm seizures, which disrupt agricultural production and lead to internal displacement.

On October 6, 2008, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Katherine S. Dhanani reissued a disaster declaration in Zimbabwe due to the complex emergency. On December 16, the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., declared a disaster due to the effects of the cholera outbreak. From mid-December 2008 through early April 2009, a USAID/OFDA Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) based in Zimbabwe identified humanitarian needs resulting from the cholera outbreak, evaluated response effectiveness, conducted field assessments, and participated in U.N. cluster meetings. To date in FY 2009, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided nearly \$164 million for health, protection, disaster risk reduction, agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, local and regional food procurement and distribution, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs in Zimbabwe, as well as emergency relief supplies and food assistance.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Approximate Population Provided with Food Assistance in June 2009	616,000	OCHA ¹ – July 6, 2009
Estimated Population in Need of Monthly Food Assistance in 2009/2010	2.8 million	OCHA – July 6, 2009

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$30,211,325
USAID/FFP² Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$131,617,000
State/PRM³ Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$2,100,000
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$163,928,325

CURRENT SITUATION

On July 6, OCHA reported slightly improved humanitarian conditions in June due in part to improved food security and an ongoing decline in weekly reported cholera cases and deaths. However, OCHA noted the significance of ongoing contingency planning in order to mitigate possible new disease outbreaks, including the potential spread of the H1N1 influenza virus from neighboring countries.

On June 22, OCHA announced immediate changes to the office's emergency response fund charter for Zimbabwe, designed to support rapid response projects and address response gaps. OCHA plans to review rapid response program proposals on a continuous rather than a periodic basis and plans to consider proposals from both U.N. agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

¹ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

Agriculture and Food Security

On July 6, OCHA reported provisional findings from the most recent crop and food security assessment, conducted by relief agencies and the GoZ in May. The assessment estimated that approximately 2.8 million people would require food assistance in 2009/2010, a marked decrease from the more than 5 million people receiving monthly food assistance between December 2008 and March 2009. However, the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) cautioned that the estimate remains subject to revision pending further assessments.

The crop and food security assessment projected a nationwide cereal production shortage of 680,000 metric tons (MT) until the next harvest, expected in April 2010. However, FAO estimates private-sector commercial imports for 2009/2010 of approximately 500,000 MT, lowering the forecast cereal deficit to 180,000 MT. Relief agencies anticipate that emergency food assistance distributed through WFP and the Consortium for Southern Africa Food Emergency (C-SAFE) will further reduce the 2009/2010 cereal deficit.

USAID/OFDA continues to coordinate with USAID/FFP, implementing partners, FAO, and other donors to ensure timely provision of sufficient seed and fertilizer for the 2009/2010 planting season. From July 7 to 10, USAID/OFDA staff participated in a USAID/OFDA-funded seed system assessment led by the International Center for Tropical Research and Catholic Relief Services and with the participation of FAO, the GoZ Ministry of Agriculture, and other NGOs. The assessment team identified five sites for intensive seed system analysis and has tentatively scheduled a public feedback meeting to report findings in mid-July. In addition, on June 22, USAID/OFDA staff met with a FAO consultant conducting an assessment of urban agriculture program efficacy and the potential sustainability of new programs. USAID/OFDA staff will participate in a USAID/FFP food aid assessment scheduled for the second half of July to determine future USAID/FFP funding priorities.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has contributed nearly \$9 million for agriculture and food security programming, including the construction and rehabilitation of water catchment structures, training in conservation farming, and improvement of livestock health. In addition, to complement agriculture and food security programming, USAID/OFDA has committed more than \$2.5 million for regional food procurement and distribution in Zimbabwe in FY 2009.

The USG is the leading donor to the WFP protracted relief and recovery operation in Zimbabwe. To date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided more than 150,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance,

valued at more than \$131 million, through WFP and C-SAFE.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

On July 1, the U.N. WASH Cluster presented initial findings from the recent assessment of the cluster's response to the 2008/2009 cholera outbreak. Recommendations included strengthened disease surveillance by relief agencies serving as district focal points; expedited verification of suspected cholera cases, followed by rapid response activities; and improved results-based monitoring and evaluation of the ongoing response. According to USAID/OFDA staff, the cluster continues to focus cholera preparedness efforts on high-risk districts through district focal points, relief agencies responsible for coordinating district-wide WASH activities. On June 24, the cluster reported that relief agencies are currently conducting WASH activities in 86 percent of districts but noted that district focal points currently provide coordination in only 25 percent of districts targeted for particular attention.

On June 16, the cluster presented a new reporting matrix enabling relief agencies to list WASH preparedness, response, and mitigation plans by district. USAID/OFDA staff note that use of the matrix is expected to facilitate coordination of preparedness and response activities in advance of and during the next potential cholera outbreak.

On July 7, the cluster conducted a contingency planning workshop to discuss potential scenarios and response planning for the coming year. The cluster intends to integrate forthcoming plans, including anticipated worst-case scenario cholera projections, within the broader Inter-Agency Standing Committee Contingency Plan.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA committed more than \$7.3 million in emergency assistance for Zimbabwe's cholera outbreak to support the provision of emergency relief supplies for affected populations, humanitarian coordination and information management, health programs, WASH interventions, and hygiene promotion and social mobilization activities. In addition, USAID/OFDA has committed nearly \$8 million for other WASH programming to date in FY 2009 to improve community resilience to cholera and other waterborne diseases and to help mitigate a potential recurrence of cholera later in 2009.

Health

On July 1, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported the ongoing development of a matrix identifying U.N. Health Cluster members' activities by focus and location—a valuable coordination tool for health preparedness and response activities. USAID/OFDA staff note the importance of planning and implementing such a matrix in order to institute

preparedness measures in anticipation of the next potential cholera outbreak.

On June 18, the U.N. Health Cluster announced plans for an independent evaluation of the cluster's response to the 2008/2009 cholera outbreak. USAID/OFDA staff note the potential for a timely evaluation to yield valuable insights regarding successes and failures of relief agency activities and to facilitate the development of significant health preparedness measures.

Protection

On July 1, OCHA announced the formal activation of the U.N. Protection Cluster, chaired by the Office of

the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). On July 6, OCHA reported that the cluster and the GoZ plan to conduct a joint assessment of internal displacement throughout Zimbabwe to ascertain the number and locations of internally displaced persons and to evaluate humanitarian needs.

Between March and May, OCHA reported farm seizures adversely affecting more than 3,400 households through loss of employment, shelter, and access to basic services. Relief agencies continue to highlight the potential for increased internal displacement, decreased agricultural production, and decreased food security as a result of farm seizures.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2009

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Multiple	Agriculture and Food Security	Mashonaland West and Midlands Provinces	\$1,507,259
Multiple	Agriculture and Food Security	Affected Areas	\$484,292
Multiple	Agriculture and Food Security; Risk Reduction; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Matabeleland North Province	\$379,807
Multiple	Agriculture and Food Security; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Bulawayo, Harare, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Masvingo, Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, and Midlands Provinces	\$3,736,848
Multiple	Emergency Relief Supplies; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Affected Areas	\$2,000,000
Multiple	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Harare Province	\$2,384,482
Multiple	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Harare, Mashonaland Central, and Midlands Provinces	\$798,767
Multiple	Agriculture and Food Security; Economy and Market Systems; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Protection	Bulawayo, Harare, Manicaland, Masvingo, and Midlands Provinces	\$427,127
Multiple	Emergency Relief Supplies; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Mashonaland West and Masvingo Provinces	\$3,589,447
Multiple	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Affected Areas	\$1,391,498
Multiple	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Bulawayo, Harare, Manicaland, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Masvingo, Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, and Midlands Provinces, Zimbabwe; and Limpopo Province, South Africa	\$5,223,621

Multiple	Local and Regional Food Procurement and Distribution	Bulawayo, Harare, Manicaland, Masvingo, and Midlands Provinces	\$2,519,964
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Affected Areas	\$3,434,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Affected Areas	\$200,000
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Emergency Relief Supplies; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Affected Areas	\$1,221,386
WHO	Health; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Affected Areas	\$750,000
	Transport of Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$65,632
	Administrative Support and Travel	Countrywide	\$97,195
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$30,211,325
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
C-SAFE	86,050 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$68,119,000
WFP	65,500 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$63,498,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$131,617,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE³			
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance and Preparedness	Zimbabwe and Neighboring Countries	\$2,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$2,100,000
TOTAL USAID/DCHA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2009			\$161,828,325
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2009			\$163,928,325

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 16, 2009.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

³ State/PRM also provides un-earmarked support for Africa-wide UNHCR and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) programs, including activities assisting Zimbabwean refugees and displaced persons. To date in FY 2009, State/PRM has provided \$42.5 million to UNHCR and \$30.1 million to ICRC in support of programs throughout Africa.