

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ZIMBABWE: ASSISTANCE TO THE POPULATION AFFECTED BY THE 'CLEAN-UP' EXERCISE

31 March 2006

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 05EA016; Operations Update no. 5 Period covered: 13 January to 22 March 2006; Appeal coverage: 35%. [Click here go directly to the attached Contributions list](#) or [here for the one on the website](#).

Appeal History:

- Launched on 26 July 2005 for CHF 2,481,818 (USD 1,788,110 or EUR 1,487,813) for 5 months to assist some 15,000 beneficiaries (3,000 households) - http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA016.pdf.
- Operations Update no. 1- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA01601.pdf was issued on 31 August 2005.
- Operations Update no. 2- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA01602.pdf was issued on 18 October 2005.
- Operations Update No. 3- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA01603.pdf was issued on 5 December 2005. It provided a revised plan of action for the period October-December 2005, in light of funding received and sought to extend the operation's timeframe to 30 March 2006.
- Operations Update No. 4- http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA01604.pdf was issued on 16 February 2006. It confirmed the extension of the appeal timeframe to 30 March 2006.
- This Operation update extends the appeal timeframe for one more month; until end of April 2006.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000.

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,613,096 (USD 1,221,117 or EUR 1,030,732).

Related Annual appeals: Zimbabwe: Annual Appeal 2005 (Appeal No. 05AA02517). Please refer to: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual05/05AA017.pdf

Operational Summary: Zimbabwe Red Cross Society¹ continues to provide humanitarian assistance to approximately 15,000 people rendered homeless by the 'clean up exercise' started in May 2005 by the Government of Zimbabwe. The national society focuses its intervention on livelihood recovery for affected households who moved to rural areas, by providing agricultural starter packs and small livestock (goats) to complement their reduced coping capacities in between other interventions.

To date, Zimbabwe Red Cross Society distributed maize seeds and fertilisers to 1,709 vulnerable households. A total 278 households in Matabeleland North and South provinces received 458 goats. Two more two-roomed houses were handed over to child-headed households in Victoria Falls, Matabeleland North province, during the reporting period, giving a total of six completed.

In mid-March 2006, Zimbabwe Red Cross Society requested for an extension of another month to conclude the operation by 30 April 2006. A final report will be due by 30 July 2006.

¹ Zimbabwe Red Cross Society- <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=13>

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Operational developments

The spiralling inflation rate (1,003% in February 2006²) and limited foreign exchange availability, leading to shortage of essential commodities such as fuel, have made basic needs unaffordable by many low income households. The effects of the economic crises on households displaced by the 'clean-up exercise' and 'Operation Murambatsvina' have been even greater, as many lost their livelihoods and are left to struggle for survival, in an environment characterised by high unemployment rates, food insecurity as well as HIV and AIDS.

The humanitarian assistance delivered by Zimbabwe Red Cross Society to affected households mainly focuses on enhancing livelihood through the distribution of small livestock (goats) and agricultural inputs (seeds and fertilizers) to families that settled in the rural areas. The Red Cross also supports construction of permanent shelter for affected child-headed families who are orphaned by HIV and AIDS.

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society has requested for a month's extension of the Emergency Appeal operation until the end of March 2006 in order to ensure completion of activities initiated in late 2005. Significant funding for the operation was received towards the end of 2005, which delayed the implementation of the activities according to plan.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress and impact

Emergency relief: Shelter and non-food items

Objective 1: Immediate relief items to 15,000 vulnerable people are provided.

Progress/Achievements

Provision of 5,000 blankets for vulnerable individuals and households affected by the 'clean-up' exercise.

Some 2,000 blankets donated by UNICEF are being distributed in eight provinces to 656 households in areas where the affected people relocated to.

²PricewaterhouseCoopers inflation analysis (Annual Inflation calculated on period 28 January 2005 to 28 January 2006).

Construction of 20 two-roomed permanent houses for orphans and children made vulnerable by HIV and AIDS (OVC) in designated areas.



In Victoria Falls of Matabeleland North province, two houses were completed and handed-over to the child-headed families. A child-headed family with a pressing need for shelter had to move into a two-roomed house whilst some finishing touches were underway. In total, six houses have been handed-over to the beneficiaries and 13 houses are still under construction.

Photo left: Mandlenkosi, 15 years old, decided to move in before the completion of the house as the shelter he was living in before was in a very bad condition and was gradually destroyed by the heavy rains.

Table 1: Statistics of the two-roomed houses for the child-headed families

Province	District	Target	No. of beneficiaries (households)	Comments
Mashonaland Central	Harare (Hatcliffe)	4	4	Handed over
	Bindura	5	5	Construction in progress
Mashonaland East	Marondera	2	2	Construction in progress
Midlands	Gweru	3	3	Almost complete
Matebeleland North	Victoria Falls	2	2	One occupied
	Dete	1	1	Construction in progress
Matebeleland South	Gwanda	2	2	Construction in progress

Support 200 OVC with school fees in the four most affected provinces

Out of the 200 targeted school-going OVC, 175 have been supported with school fees for all semesters in 2006 and the remaining 25 children will be assisted before end of March 2006. Zimbabwe Red Cross Society also planned to provide school uniforms to all 200 children by the end of March 2006.

Health and hygiene promotion

Objective: Health and hygiene among the affected people are provided.

Progress/Achievements

Provision of 5,000 bars of soap to affected people, particularly OVC and the chronically ill.

Zimbabwe Red Cross Society has distributed a total of 5,200 bars of soap to the affected households during the implementation of the project.

Livelihoods development

Objective: Support 1,200 households in rural areas and 100 home-based care (HBC) clients and their care providers in urban areas to ensure self-reliance through agricultural interventions.

Progress/Achievements

Provision of 1,000 seed packs and fertilizers to 1,000 households who relocated to rural areas.

Since the beginning of the operation 1,709 households relocated in rural areas have received agricultural starter packs in five provinces. This is beyond the original number targeted.

Table 2: Agricultural starter packs distributed

Province	Seeds (MT)	Fertilizer (MT)		No. of Beneficiaries (Households)
		Compound D	Ammonium Nitrate	
Mashonaland Central	14.85	39.80	19.00	1,152
Midlands	0.72	7.20	3.60	72
Masvingo	1.70	17.00	15.20	215
Mashonaland West	0.50	9.95	5.10	50
Manicaland	2.20	26.00	13.00	220
Total	19.97	99.95	55.90	1,709

Distribution of 800 goats to 200 households in the rural areas of Matabeleland North and South provinces

Some 278 households relocated in rural areas of Matabeleland North and South provinces received a total of 458 goats as part of livelihood interventions. Livestock farming is a preferred mean of farming activity in the province due to its harsh climatic and geographical conditions.

Table 3: Number of goats distributed to households

Province	Target	Goats Procured	No. of beneficiaries (Households-HH)	Comment
Matabeleland North	400	281	227	200 received one goat; 27 received three goats
Matabeleland South	400	177	51	Received one goat per household
Total	800	458	278	

Establish income generating activities supporting ten support groups consisting of 100 HBC clients and care givers in urban areas of Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South and Mashonaland Central provinces.

The funds available for the establishment of income generating activities for support groups were re-allocated to the construction of houses for child-headed families affected by the ‘clean-up exercise’. It was not feasible to sustain the income generating activities because the funds were realised late and the current hyper inflationary environment would erode the monetary value of the proceeds.

Impact

Child-headed families provided with permanent shelter are now protected against the hostile weather conditions, are more secure, able to concentrate on their studies and other social activities. The houses are the property of the children, which is a guaranteed security for their future.



Naomi 16, a beneficiary of the housing project in Victoria Falls, lives with her sister Patience 13, brother Werusani 15 and Janette 17, who is taking care of them. Their shelter was pulled down during the ‘clean up’ exercise.



Naomi and her sister are living in a make shift shelter waiting for the completion of their house. Security is their main concern as the area is known to have wild animals roaming around from the near by game park.

Majority of the beneficiaries expect good harvest thus ensuring improved livelihood and food security.



Emelda, one of the beneficiaries of the agricultural inputs in Bindura, a small mining town in Mashonaland Central province- in her farm in November 2005.



Emelda is now enjoying green maize from her maize field- thanks to the agricultural starter packs she received in November 2005.

Constraints

- The scarcity of basic commodities adversely affected the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The ever-rising prices of basic commodities are negatively impacting on procurement of local materials.
- Delays in securing housing stands, building permits and inspection by relevant local authorities negatively impacted on the progress of the construction of the houses for child-headed families.
- Registration and verification of beneficiaries took longer than anticipated and sometimes with limited support from the local authorities due to the politically sensitive nature of the operation.
- In order to sustain livelihood in the urban areas, Zimbabwe Red Cross Society had planned to establish income generating activities targeting 50 households or 100 people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) and affected by the clean operation. However, due to limited funding and the rising costs of implementing the planned projects, this activity could not be implemented.
- The insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) were not made available to Red Cross for distribution as UNICEF assigned them to other priority areas. Water purification tables were also diverted to Chikomba and Buhera districts where there was a cholera outbreak in January 2006.

National Society Capacity Building

The provincial programme and food security officers from eight provinces attended a two-day food security workshop held in Harare mid-February 2006. They also received training on conservation farming, sustainable livelihoods, monitoring and evaluation.

The national society received technical support on the operation from the Federation relief delegate on a daily basis. The Federation regional finance development delegate provided technical support on improving financial reporting. The Federation regional water and sanitation officer provided technical assistance on an assessment conducted in the cholera affected areas. Further technical support is being provided by bilateral delegates in food security and livelihood projects in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe Red Cross Society held a partnership meeting from 22 to 24 February, attended by eight partner national societies, Head of Federation regional delegation and the regional programmes coordinator.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

A local newspaper ‘The Herald’ reporter visited the project areas in Zvimba district in Mashonaland East province and consequently published an article on the ‘Zimbabwe Red Cross Society humanitarian activities’.

Coordination

The national society food security officer and Federation relief coordinator attended inter-agency meetings organised by the United Nations, where humanitarian agents operating in Zimbabwe shared information on disaster preparedness. The interagency meetings provide is a useful forum for sharing information with relevant Government departments, United Nations agencies, non-government organizations involved in relief interventions.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Zimbabwe - Assistance to the population

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA016

PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/03/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2,481,818		TOTAL COVERAGE 35.0%
BRITISH - PRIVATE DONOR/RC		25,000	GBP	56,500	01.08.05	ZIMBABWE
CHINA - HONG KONG RC BRANCH		4,540	HKD	731	07.09.05	
DANISH - RC				66,835	04.11.05	
FINNISH - RC		50,000	EUR	77,400	29.07.05	
FINNISH - RC		30,000	EUR	46,710	25.10.05	
ICELANDIC - RC		250,000	ISK	4,900	26.08.05	
JAPANESE - RC		62,900	USD	80,952	05.08.05	
NETHERLANDS - RC		42,781	EUR	66,610	18.10.05	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		1,510,248	NOK	299,784	14.10.05	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	168,300	28.07.05	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				868,722	CHF	35.0%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	