



## Zambia Floods Humanitarian Bulletin

### Update on Situation



Lusaka, Feb. 8, Children in Kamwala Township labour through flooded gardens to arrive home.

- Feb. 3 the Zambezi River Authority (ZRA) announced they will open one spillway gate on Monday Feb. 11 at 1200hrs. Government confirms that official communication to river authorities in neighbouring countries has taken place via ZRA - according to the SOPs. ZRA and ZESCO are currently sensitizing communities down stream to relocate from riverbanks.
- During the weekly **National Epidemic Prevention, Preparedness, Control and Management Committee Meeting**, Government noted that it has constituted a committee of Ministers chaired by the Vice President to oversee the response to Lusaka's floods. Day to day flood response is conducted by a taskforce chaired by Lusaka's Town Clerk. The taskforce has drawn a plan with a budget is K 16,785,774,500:00 focused on 4 priority areas: 1) improving drainage; 2) disease prevention; 3) health education; and 4) improving access to public facilities.
- 103 cases of cholera, one death, reported in the Mwense district of Luapula Province, between Jan. 03-31, 2008; and four suspected cholera cases are currently receiving treatment at Mwense district hospital. MOH has dispatched a team to support interventions in Mwense District. On confirmed case of cholera has been reported in Garden Overspill township. The MoH's surveillance and epidemiological subcommittee also reports 32 cases of bubonic plague in the Petauke District of Eastern Province between Jan. 02 -29. By Jan. 29th, 2008, 4 cases of bubonic plague were under treatment in Petauke.
- 82 households were evacuated from Kasaya area in Kazungula district, Feb. 2-3, when flood waters rose to excessive levels. CARE was asked by the District Commissioner to respond to the flood and mobilized efforts for immediate evacuation of 419 individuals. The evacuees were moved to higher ground and given temporary shelters. No injuries or casualties were reported. It is expected the evacuees will camp at this site for the next four months, until the rainy season ends.
- More heavy rains are predicted. The Tropical Convergence Zone -- which had been positioned over Southern Province -- has moved north and is predicted to distribute heavy rains in Western, Northwestern, Copperbelt, Central, Northern, and parts of Eastern and Lusaka Provinces.
- According to DMMU, the district preparedness activities in the high-risk districts have intensified. These include Kalomo, Livingstone, Choma, Serenje, Shan'gombo and Mungwi.

## Update on Situation

### Provincial update

#### Western Province

- According to WFP's Mongu Sub-Office, the flood situation in Kalabo is worsening. Lukulu District has been badly affected by floods from heavy rainfall experienced. Reports from the District Education Board (DEB) indicated that 2,666 pupils (1410 boys and 1256 girls) from 11 schools in the East Bank have been moved to other schools due to flooding. The report also indicates that another 1,946 pupils (966 boys and 980 girls) from 9 schools in the West Bank have been affected by flooding and have also been moved. As a result, this has caused overcrowding in receiving schools and has affected school attendance. It is reported that one Health Centre in the East was submerged. Cassava fields are reportedly waterlogged and the district is finding it difficult to collect detailed information because many areas remain inaccessible by road.
- The DDMC assessment report from Mongu District reveals that most crops in the low-land fields are submerged. Crop failure rate is at 85% with the hardest hit crops being maize, rice and cassava. The anticipated poor harvest is likely to cause widespread food insecurity in the flooded wet lands and water logged uplands. School attendance has dropped (as low as 45%) in many areas visited
- Water levels continue to rise in Kalabo District as a result of both localised rainfall and the inflow of water from neighbouring DRC and Angola. The most affected communities are in Bungoto, Mulundumano, Lombo, Mapungu and Sitongola. Crops damaged by floods include maize, cassava and rice. Floods have also affected health posts and schools in the area.
- The DDMC Assessment Report from Senanga district reveals that the flood situation has had serious impact on crops in the flood plains. Their main concern is the high moisture content in the grain which might affect the drying process. The state of the Senanga - Kalongola road is bad and not passable due to heavy rains that washed away some culverts and small bridges along the same road. In the southern area of the district, more families may have to relocate as the water from the flash floods seems to be rising faster than anticipated. Some homesteads are surrounded by water and the number of diarrhoea cases are reported to be high.

#### Southern Province

- In Monze district the education sub-committee reported that 6 schools had completely been turned into hostels by the people fleeing their homes due to floods and there is no learning taking place. The DEBs office appealed for more tents for the area so that schools can re-open. It was also reported by the agricultural sub-committee that in Monze central, floods have affected crops and human habitation with the most affected areas being Hufwa and Malende.
- The bridge linking Sinazongwe from Batoka has collapsed a second time after being repaired. The provincial agricultural office in Sinazongwe district reports that there has been a delay in the planting of crops which has resulted in a reduced hectareage of major crops.



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### Assessment

- Seven teams from the Zambia VAC have been formed to carry out a multi-sector rapid assessment in the following 16 districts: Mumbwa, Itezhi-tezhi, Lukulu, Sinazongwe, Monze, Kazungula, Kafue, Siavonga, Gwembe, Mazabuka, Namwala, Mkushi, Lundazi, Luangwa, Chavuma, Zambezi. The teams are scheduled to leave on 11 February and will return within four to eight days.

## Response to the Situation

### Government of the Republic of Zambia

- Ministry of Health (MoH) has directed all Provincial Health Office and District Health Management Teams to revamp their epidemic preparedness, control and management committees in view of the floods in the country.
- The Ministry of Finance has so far released the following resources:
  - K 7,000,000,000 towards infrastructure rehabilitation for the 2006/07 flood damage
  - K 10,679,500,000 towards the implementation of the national contingency plan
  - K 8,194,33,500 towards the implementation of the Lusaka township floods response action plan
- GRZ has received donations at the value of K 4,410,700,000 from private sector and cooperating partner.
- GRZ has already airlifted relief supplies to Mazabuka district and a plan to airlift supplies to Namwala, Zambezi, Chavuma and Lukulu is being developed. 10 boats have been deployed to flood affected areas
- The Office of the Vice-President is liaising with the Secretary of the Cabinet and other relevant authorities to facilitate that two procurement officers from Zambia National Tender Board to DMMU as well as two accountants during the emergency period.

### Kazungula DDMC and Civil Society Partners

- In response to the evacuation of the families from Kasaya area the Rotary Club provided 30 shelter boxes, each containing a tent, blanket, mosquito net, pans, plates, cups, water containers, water purification tablets, cooking utensils, pots, a hoe and axe. 100 additional emergency kits have been delivered to the DDMC in Kazungula district by Shelter Box International for prepositioning.
- CARE and CRS through the CFAARM project provided 40 X 50 kg of cereals and 4 x 50 kg pulses to the DDMC who have already established a sub-committee to handle the food distribution.
- CARE continues to offer logistical support through providing personnel, vehicles and fuel for boats.

## Response to the Situation

- A screening exercise of the affected population was undertaken following the evacuation. The DC's Assistant Council Secretary (appointed Camp Manager) spearheaded the activity assisted by other cooperating partners. Each household has been provided with about an acre of land and pit latrines will be dug around the camping area. Currently there are no sanitation facilities on site.
- The council has provided two portable water tanks; purification tablets from the kits will be used to purify the water. If need be CARE's HBC project will provide more chlorine. MOH has also taken up the issue of health though they have not yet taken action.

### World Food Programme

- The WFP Country Offices' ICT Unit is working closely with the Meteorological Department and are currently preparing to procure equipment including 5 computers, and 5UBS external hard disks. This will assist the MET department to continue with their floods assessments in a more consistent manner.
- The WFP Global Logistics Cluster Support Cell in Rome has deployed one logistics officer, Kevin Howley, to assist the WFP Zambia country office in the sector activities. Ad hoc meetings have been held with RDA on the current infrastructure and on-going assessments on bridge and road conditions.
- WFP is working with DMMU to identify districts for food support for the next two months.

### UNICEF

- UNICEF is establishing an operational response capacity to an estimated 70,000 affected people over a 60 day period, throughout Zambia pending funding approval.
- UNICEF is providing protective clothing, shovels, and wheelbarrows for drain clearing, as scaled up drainage rehabilitation and construction activities in medium to high density areas will help reduce the impact of flooding. This assistance is being provided to Kanyama, a highly affected Lusaka township.
- UNICEF WASH has received additional requests from LCC and DHMT for more lime, 5,000 bags, HTH, 60 bags of 45kgs, and Chlorine, 10,000 boxes X 12 bottles to replenish depleting supplies. The requests include H2S biological testing kits for water testing to prevent faecal contamination for cholera prevention.
- Claudia Hudspeth, Emergency Coordinator from HQ, arrived in the country 03 February to assist the CO with emergency preparations



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### Constraints

DMMU reports the following constraints:

- Limited logistical capacity to deliver relief supplies such as helicopters, inflatable boats and hoover-crafts
- Difficulties in implementing relief activities in unplanned settlements
- Problematic consistency in reporting
- Inertia among vulnerable communities to move to safe haven
- Lack of appropriate facilities such as 50 tonne cranes and excavators, mobile clinics and emergency

WFP reports the following constraints:

- Difficulties reaching beneficiaries in the Western Province's of Chavuma and Zambezi Districts due to rains.
- In Kalabo, pools of water are too deep for cars, but not deep enough for boats means food distribution to beneficiaries is increasingly difficult as the rains continue.
- Of the 18,000 households planned to receive food assistance this month, WFP reached 16,300 households (600 households in Mambolomoka and 1045 in Lweti).
- Resource shortfalls starting March, 2008.

### Sector Lead Contact List

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