



UNITED NATIONS

Zambia Humanitarian Country Team

Situation Report No. 2 – Zambia floods – 04 March 2008

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 27 February 2008, the Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) released a draft flood impact assessment report from 19 flood-affected districts, indicating that 5,796 households have been displaced.
- The gates at Itezhi-Tezhi dam continue to be open as more water is expected. Additional gates are likely to open next month.
- There are fears of a nutritional crisis in the wake of widespread crop destruction and urgent action is required to strengthen the nutrition monitoring.

Situation Overview

The Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee released a draft multi-sector assessment report on 27 February for 19 districts. The report reveals that 3,418 houses have collapsed as a result of heavy rainfall and 5,796 households have been displaced, with most IDPs in Monze (Western Province), Mumbwa (Central Province), Mkushi (Central Province), Mazabuka (Southern Province) and Kafue (Lusaka Province). About 70% of displaced households are integrated within communities, while 30% remain in camps or are sheltering in available facilities. 44 schools have been damaged and most schools' sanitation and water facilities have been heavily damaged. As a result, 8,600 pupils require alternative learning spaces.

The expected loss to the main staple crop varies from between 20% in Eastern Province to 80% in parts of the Southern Province. Extensive crop loss combined with an increase in diarrhoea cases is likely to precipitate a nutritional crisis over the coming months. Approximately 80% of the assessed districts reported poor quality drinking water, mostly attributed to unprotected wells and contaminated rivers and streams. Most boreholes tested through UNICEF-support indicate extensive water contamination. Only an estimated 50% of the populations have access to safe drinking water, and 70% of assessed populations have no access to sanitary facilities.

Even if the rainfall in Zambia has shifted to the northern parts of the country, the inflow into Itezhi-Tezhi dam is expected to increase again, resulting in more outflows from the reservoir into the flats and spillage from Kafue Gorge. Flood warnings issued by ZESCO are continuing over the radio and through distribution of leaflets, and discussions are held with chiefs in order to encourage timely evacuation of people at risk.

In Lukulu District (Likapai and Silonga) a total of 80 households were recently evacuated to Nbamba as their houses collapsed due to heavy rains. Water levels at Nwipo in the East-Bank are still rising. In Senanga District even if there has been no heavy

rainfall in the past days, water levels keep rising. The Kaunga Lueti bridge in the West-Bank has been washed away, making Kalabo inaccessible from that side.

The outlook from Zambia Meteorological Department indicates a shift in heavy rains to Western and North-western Provinces over the Zambezi catchments, and a reduction is expected over the lower catchments. The latest ten day crop weather bulletin from the Zambia Meteorological Department covering the period 11-20 February, show some reduction in rainfall activities over most parts of Zambia and indicates further reduction in rainfall over Zambia especially in the southern half.

Humanitarian Response

Shelter & Settlement

Sector Lead: IOM

DMMU has dispatched 391 tents for Mazabuka, Monze and Namwala districts, and 66 shelter boxes to Kazungula district. A gap of 3,000 tents to the flood affected population is still indicated by the Government.

Caritas reports from the camps for displaced populations that most households are seeking relocation and are not willing to go back to where they lived before, due to fear of facing similar disasters in the future. It is expected that they will stay in the camps at least until June, as further heavy rains are predicted and as relocation will take long time due to land allocation problems. There is severe shortage of tents in some of the camps, and since people are expected to stay in the camps for a longer period, it is recommended that they are provided with temporary shelters (i.e. made out of wooden planks) rather than tents.

UNICEF reports that 5,000 non-food item (NFI) household kits will arrive shortly. Several NGOs have requested kits for distribution to affected households; World Vision will be distributing 1,610 UNICEF household kits as follows: 280 NFI kits for the camps in Magoye/Mazabuka area, 250 kits for affected families

in Choongo/Monze, 1,000 kits for families who lost their houses in Sinazongwe and 80 kits for Chainda area in Lusaka.

Education Sector

Sector Lead: UNICEF

Based on the findings from the VAC assessment an estimated 8,600 pupils have had their learning disrupted. The education sector is working closely with the VAC analysis to develop and harmonize the education sector requirements. 36 school tents, 58 school-in-a-box kits, and 40 recreation kits ordered by UNICEF are due to arrive 03 March.

Distribution plans have been prepared for decentralized UNICEF distribution to 20 schools in the affected districts of Namwala, Mazabuka, Monze, Itezhi-tezhi, Siavonga, Kafue and Kazungula (Kasaya camp). The supplies for education alongside school watsan supplies (handwashing facilities, soap and lime) will be distributed as one package directly to 20 schools, starting the week of 10 March.

A rapid assessment of learning spaces (RALS) is being planned in the affected districts with sector partners.

Agriculture and Food Security

Sector Lead: FAO

FAO has been authorized by the Norwegian Government to utilize USD 79,325 from previous project support for agriculture inputs to benefit 2,750 households in the Southern Province, which will alleviate the impact of floods and improve food security.

FAO reports that as a result of the ongoing livestock vaccinations, programme for flood recovery outbreaks of CBPP is not anticipated in North Western and Western Provinces.

WFP Zambia has transferred its balance of un-distributed food from the 2006/07 flood response programme to the same beneficiaries in the districts previously approved by the Government. WFP is, however, facing a total food shortfall of 24,000 metric tonnes (of mixed commodities) and reports that cereals and pulses will run out in mid-May, Oil in March and fortified blended food (HEPS) in early May.

Concern reports from Western Province that the flood response in terms of food security should encourage farmers to re-focus on the winter cropping season. The activities that need to take place include canal clearing, investment in simple irrigation systems and crop diversification away from maize to crops such as sorghum and cassava.

Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS

Sector Lead: UNICEF

UNICEF is supporting the MoH in responding to cholera outbreaks in the country. Distribution plans are being finalized for decentralized distribution of relief supplies through the District health management teams to the following 10 flood affected districts:

Kazungula, Mkushi, Namwala, Monze, Lusaka, Kitwe, Mwense, Sinazongwe, Sesheke and Petauke.

Fears of a nutritional crisis in the wake of widespread crop destruction are well-founded, and there is a need to strengthen nutrition monitoring and capacity to treat an expected increased caseload of children with acute malnutrition over the coming months.

Urgent F75 and F100 supplies arrived in Lusaka and are being distributed by UNICEF to district hospitals in flood affected areas.

Protection

Sector Lead: UNICEF

Reports are indicating overcrowded camps for displaced people, and serious protection concerns are reported. Women in the camps are complaining of lack of privacy, and it is reported of cases where up to 3 households stay in one tent.

UNICEF has prepared a series of key programme communications messages to be carried out of which many relate to protection issues.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Sector Lead: UNICEF

A new partnership has been established with the DAPP Children's Town Center in Lusaka. UNICEF is providing the centre with supplies for water purification, soap, and towels for improved personal hygiene.

Continued support to Kasaya IDP camp in Kazungula district (home to 1,000 IDPs) is provided in form of water supplies, gender segregated latrines, and bathing facilities, as well as promoting improved hygiene practices in the camp.

20 district health management teams (DHMTs) and Lusaka City Council (LCC) are supported by UNICEF to carry out water quality monitoring and management, hygiene promotion. UNICEF is also providing essential supplies to prevent cholera and diarrhoea disease outbreaks.

Partnering with the LCC and Ministry of Health - Lusaka District Health Management Team, UNICEF WASH is continuing to fund hygiene promotion and household visits to promote improved hygiene practices in George, Chunga, Ngombe, and Chipata compounds in Lusaka. The compounds are also being provided with chlorine for treatment of household water supplies; lime supplies for treating pit latrines; and support for drainage clearing to prevent flash floods.

Logistics

Sector Lead: WFP

The logistic sector is undertaking fact finding exercises identifying the location and availability of warehouses, logistical assets of agencies etc, and an assets matrix has been developed and circulated to partners. An infrastructure assessment is planned with RDA and WFP has developed a web site where information regarding road damage, repairs, accessibility etc. can be found. See: www.logcluster.org/zmb08a

Coordination

The UN Resident Coordinator's Office convened an IASC meeting on 27 February, where amongst other issues the newly released VAC report was shared and discussed. It was agreed the IASC will provide comments to the report and the sector leads will be responsible for consolidating the input and reporting back to the VAC team.

A meeting with the sector leads and donors took place 28 February with the objective of discussing the regional appeal. The UN indicated that the appeal document is being revised in order to reflect the latest developments as well as the findings from the rapid assessment.

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