



7th January 2009

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Context

The context within which we are operating pretty much remains the same as was reported in the previous update. The rainy season is well under way and the meteorological records indicate that the rainfall is normal in most cases. Reports of cholera have continued being captured in the mainline public and private media. Following the reduction in prices of fuel and maize, the mealie meal and transportation costs have also started being reduced.

Current Situation/Response

Flood Emergency

There have been no reports of floods in the areas that were affected by either flash or normal floods last year as yet. According to the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD), water levels have starting rising in parts of the Kafue river basin. The Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO) have already issued a flood warning to communities residing in the Kafue flats to start moving to higher grounds as the water discharge will start soon to safe guard the dam structure.. It is worth noting that this is the perennial flood prone area that usually gets flooded when the upper parts of the river basin continues receiving above normal rainfall as was the case last year in December 2007. Furthermore, the Zambia Meteorological bulletin for the period 1st to 10 December 2008 indicates that most parts of the Western, Southern, Luapula, Copperbelt and some parts of Northern Provinces have continued receiving above normal rainfall which has resulted in localized flooding.

The UN has started pre-positioning relief items to those districts that are likely to be cut off during floods. Some of the items that have been pre-positioned include chlorine for water purification and soap for hygiene promotion. Problems of drainage in urban areas are still abound, despite the efforts that were made by the city council to clear up drainages, the problem still persists. Media reports carried a report of flooding in one of the high density areas on Lusaka urban. Despite the Government launching a keep Zambia clean campaign, drainages still get blocked by poor managed solid waste. There has been no update regarding repairs on the culverts on the Chipata-Lundazi road that were washed away effectively cutting off Lundazi and Chama districts from the rest of the country.

For Lusaka urban which was also highly affected by rising waters in the previous season the Lusaka District Disaster Management Committee (LDDMC) has engaged the communities that were affected in drainage clearing and garbage collection to avoid a catastrophe should the situation re-occur this season. This is being done in conjunction with the council, defence forces and the communities.

This far, Mazabuka, Nyimba and Mbala have reported floods but the local authorities have thus far managed to contain the fall out from these floods. The national office has delivered food and tents to the affected districts. The actual number of families that were affected were not immediately available, however the figures being quoted from other sources were less than 100 households.

Hunger Situation

Following the reports of hunger received by the Government through the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU), a VAC led Food Security Rapid Assessment was undertaken in thirty four (34) districts. Twenty one (21) of these were earlier identified as being in need of food assistance during the June 2008 in-depth Assessment. The preliminary figures indicate that a total of 674,464 people would require food assistance amounting to 16,854 metric tonnes of cereal for a period of three (3). Of the total caseload requiring for assistance (674,464), 229,840 people is the additional caseload of which 46,803 people are from four of the 21 districts requiring 1,169 MT of cereals while 183,037 people are from the eight (8) new districts also requiring 4,575 MT. There is also a recommendation that a market intervention be done allowing FRA to offload a total of 11,435 metric tonnes at commercial rates.

The Food Reserve Agency (FRA) has continued offloading maize on the market and have already signed contracts with milling companies that give millers the possibility of purchasing maize from FRA at discounted rates. FRA reports that they have less than 80,000 metric tons of maize in their strategic reserves. The



implications are that, the food might run out before the next harvest which makes importation of maize a priority.

The impact of raising food costs (maize) on most vulnerable urban populations has become a source of preoccupation and is now at the core of several responses within the assistance community and the GRZ. The UN system together with partners from GRZ and the civil society will launch in the next few days a peri urban social safety nets program to tackle the loss of purchasing power and hunger gap that has been increasing in and around major urban centres. The food vouchers program will cover a total of 10,000 families in the Lusaka peri - urban areas.

The emergency response plan to malnutrition that was being spearheaded by the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) has been released through the Ministry of Health. The total cost of the plan is US\$1,350,000. This budget is for supplies and emergency feeding kits is for 2,340 severely malnourished children 9,360 moderately malnourished children treated over 6 months. The UN is in constant discussions with Government and meetings are still ongoing so that the UN could respond if we are requested to do so. One very important factor to mention here is that the malnutrition rate has been unusually high. This compounded by the facts that between 20 and 30% of the affected children are HIV positive.

Cholera Situation

The country has recorded a total of one thousand five hundred and thirty six (1,536) cumulative cholera cases, twenty one (21) deaths and twenty (20) BIDs from 10th September to 6th January 2009. The case fatality rate (CFR) is 1.19%. Cholera cases have been reported in 11 out of 72 districts involving 6 provinces. There are no reported cholera cases in Luapula, North-Western and Northern Provinces since 7th December 2008. refer to table below for details of the cases per district, per province.

Since 24 Dec 2008, the UN has provided supplies of 7,500 Boxes (12 bottles per box) of chlorine and 300 boxes (20 bars per box) of soap to meet the cholera prevention and management needs of Lusaka, Kafue, Chongwe and Luangwa districts. 9,632 crates of chlorine will be distributed by 02 January 2009 and 16,500 additional boxes of chlorine have been ordered. Each box contains 12 X 250 ml bottles.

The MOH Communications sub-committee is scaling up awareness efforts through drama, radio PSAs, posters, flyers, and newspaper announcements. The radio programmes are being broadcast nationally on ZNBC.

National Cholera case distribution as at January 06, 2008 - Ministry of Health- Directorate of Public Health

Province	District	Death	BIDs	Under Tx	No. of Cholera Cases	CFR	Duration
Northern	Mpulungu	1	5	0	547	0.18%	30/09/2008 to 07/12/2008
	Kaputa	0	0	0	20	0.00%	06/11/2008 to 27/11/2008
	Mbala	2	0	0	28	7.14%	19/10/2008 to 28/11/2008
Provincial Total		3	5	0	595	0.50%	30/09/2008 to 07/12/2008
Luapula	Chienge	1	1	0	177	0.56%	10/09/2008 to 03/12/2008
	Nchelenge	4	0	0	286	1.40%	26/09/2008 to 21/11/2008
Provincial Total		5	1	0	463	1.08%	10/09/2008 to 30/11/2008
Lusaka	Lusaka	6	10	80	506	1.19%	03/10/2008 to 06/01/2009
Southern	Siavonga	0	1	7	34	0.00%	02/12/2008 to 06/01/2009
	Livingstone	2	1	0	21	9.52%	06/12/2008 to 06/01/2009
	Mazabuka	1	0	17	96	1.04%	09/12/2008 to 06/01/2009

Humanitarian Update

United Nations Disaster Management Team

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National Cholera case distribution as at January 06, 2008 - Ministry of Health- Directorate of Public Health

Province	District	Death	BIDs	Under Tx	No. of Cholera Cases	CFR	Duration
Provincial Total		3	2	24	151	1.99%	02/12/2008 to 06/01/2008
Central	Mumbwa	4	1	2	43	9.30%	12/12/2008 to 06/01/2009
North Western	Solwezi	0	0	0	1	0.00%	14/12/2008

National Totals		21	19	106	1759	1.19%	19/09/2008 to 06/01/2009
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