



18th February 2009

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Context

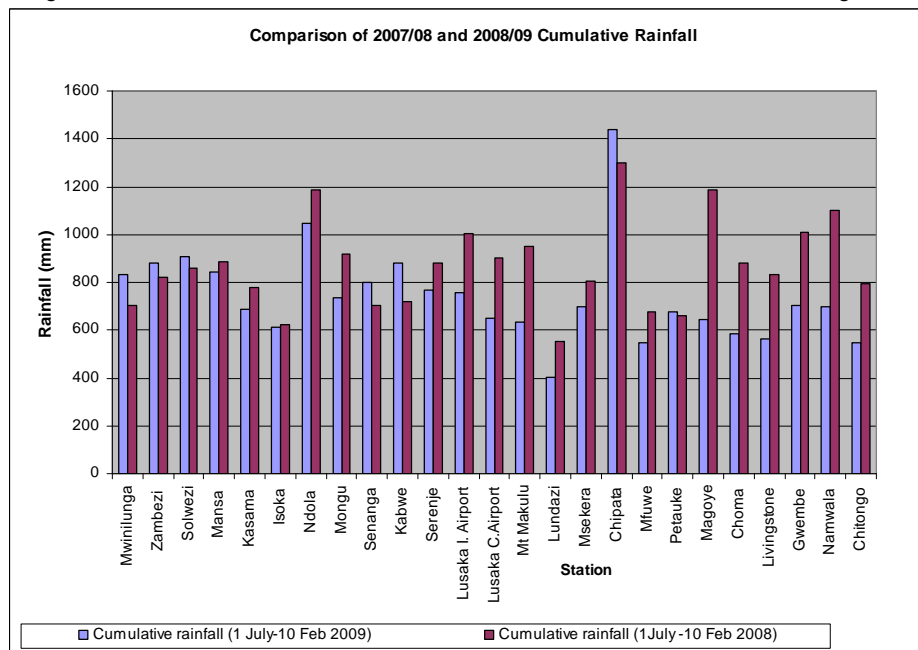
The rain season is progressing very well with most places receiving their normal rainfall. According to the meteorological department the crop water requirement satisfaction index was generally good, meaning the water levels were just right for agriculture purposes. There are intermittent periods of rain and sunshine, but the meteorological department predicts an increased amount of rainfall in the next 10 days especially on the southern and western parts of the country. The weather bulletin as of February 10th, 2009 indicates that there was an increase in rainfall activities over northern parts of the country and a reduction in the southern parts. Cholera has continued being a problem and it has reached critical levels; and the Government with some cooperating partners having continued responding to the situation. Government has not declared it an emergency and it is highly unlikely that it will be declared as such. There have been no reports of major flooding in the recent past, except for Lusaka urban where in most cases heavy rains would cause floods due to stagnating water.

Current Situation/Response

Agriculture and Meteorological Conditions

As the second half (Jan-Marc) of the 2008/09 rainy season progresses, heavy rainfall activities continue to dominate most parts of the country. The first ten days of February, 2009 saw a substantial increase in rainfall activities in the central and northern parts of Zambia whilst a marked decrease in rainfall activities occurred in the southern half of the country. Luapula Province is among the areas currently experienced heavy downpours and there are reports of floods in Kawambwa District where some maize fields have already been submerged in water.

Apart from Kawambwa District in Luapula Province where floods have been reported, there are no any other reports of floods received from elsewhere in the country. The cumulative rainfall so far recorded across the country is generally less than that of last season the same period. The floods of last year were exacerbated by the previous (2006/07) season which was one of the wettest especially in the northern half of Zambia in the last five years. The current heavy rainfall in areas such as North Western and Western as well as Eastern provinces pose a risk of flooding especially in the major river basins which are already saturated. The graph below compares the cumulative rainfall for the current and the previous season. As can be seen from the graph, most of the areas have so far received less rainfall this season as compared to last season and this explain why flooding this season has so far not been as bad as it was last season during the same period.



The country is expecting a good harvest on paper if we take into account the scaling up of the Fertilizer support Programme (FSP) which is targeting 200,000 farmers. The contribution of the FSP alone should be



adequate to meet half of the country's food balance sheet. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MACO) is still estimating the crop hectareage planted in 2008/2009 planting season. There has been no major outbreak of livestock diseases in this season, this gives sufficient level of comfort for the farmers to build up their asset base. Amidst this some observers and analysts forecast a decline in national food production due to the short-comings in the implementation of the FSP. What is not clear is whether the country will have sufficient food until the next harvest given also the observations made in the rapid Vulnerability Assessment Committee Report of December 2008. In order to increase agricultural productivity and contribute to disaster risk reduction, FAO in partnership with MACO will be launching a USD 5 million Conservation Agriculture Project to support 58,800 small scale farmers. This is funded by the Royal Government of Norway.

Cholera Situation

According to the Ministry of Health report, the country has had a cumulative total of 4,988 cumulative cholera cases from 10th September 2009 to 18th February 2009, with mortality of 116 [62 BID, 54 died under treatment] (CFR: 1.24%). Between the last update on 11th February and 18th February 2009, 355 more cases were recorded. This is almost 50% lower than the previous week 4th to 11th February 2009, but that does not mean that the situation is any better. Most of the cases have since been discharged after receiving treatment. Cases still under treatment have fallen to 161 compared to 228 and 241 during the previous reporting periods (see details in table below). The number of districts affected now stands 26. As the rainfall reduces new challenges with respect to Cholera start emerging chief among them is stagnant water. The stagnant water exacerbates the already dangerous situation of further deterioration in conditions as well a risk of other diseases such as malaria and just general diarrhoea.

Meanwhile the following interventions are being carried out and have continued:-

- Case Management has been reinforced, with more staff and equipment from the defence forces, Zambia Police and MSF.
- Contact tracing and disinfections are being routinely carried out in affected areas and reinforced by volunteers including from the Red Cross.
- The supply of safe water in Kanyama in Lusaka has continued with 11 overhead tanks now installed. Home chlorination and water quality monitoring is also on-going There is also improved - but limited sanitation services with 50 new portable toilets in Kanyama. The toilets have hygiene education messages on them. Kanyama is the badly affected unplanned settlement on the western side of Lusaka where drainage is blocked. And it sits on a lime stone making waste water management a very big challenge.
- Public service messages on both electronic and print media have been intensified. New billboards have been erected and additional pamphlets distributed. MSF has raised concerns on the effectiveness of the messaging. A sub-committee of communication specialists was tasked by MOH to find ways of intensifying behaviour change communication - UNICEF is part of the team
- UNICEF has funded cholera messages - targeted to children in a leading daily newspaper and will sponsor broadcast of a cholera public service announcement adapted from the UNICEF Regional Office in Nairobi on community radio stations in affected areas.
- MSF to meet with the Local Government Minister to discuss concerns over water and sanitation services in Lusaka. UNICEF will participate.

In the meantime the Red Cross provided a further ZMK 250 million (US\$48,000) of assorted items for cholera interventions. This has greatly helped as it has partly enabled the Government meet all demands for treatment and other materials.

Humanitarian Update

United Nations Disaster Management Team
 UNCT Zambia
 P.O Box 31966,
 Lusaka
 Tel: +260-211-254417/+260-977790824/+260-966-120021



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Province	District	Death	BIDs	Under Rx	Cum. Cholera Cases	Cum. Discharges	CFR	Duration
Northern	Mpungu	1	5	0	547	546	0.18%	30/09/2008 to 07/12/2008
	Kaputa	0	0	0	20	20	0.00%	06/11/2008 to 27/11/2008
	Mbala	2	0	0	28	26	7.14%	19/10/2008 to 28/11/2008
	Kasama	0	0	0	1	1	0.00%	07/02/2009 to 11/02/2009
Total Prov.		3	5	0	596	593	0.50%	30/09/2008 to 11/02/2009
Luapula	Chienge	1	1	2	182	179	1.65%	10/09 to 03/12/2008; 17/02 to 18/02/2009
	Nchelenge	5	0	0	299	294	1.67%	26/09 to 21/11/2008; 23/01 to 16/02/2009
	Mwense	1	0	0	1	0	100.00%	31/01/2009 to 01/02/2009
Total Prov.		7	1	2	482	473	1.87%	10/09/2008 to 30/11/2008
Lusaka	Lusaka	39	34	134	2,953	2,780	1.32%	03/10/2008 to 18/02/2009
	Luangwa	0	0	1	12	11	0.00%	18/01/2009 to 18/02/2009
	Chongwe	0	1	1	18	17	0.00%	25/01/2009 to 18/02/2009
	Kafue	0	1	6	119	113	0.00%	10/01/2009 to 18/02/2009
Total Prov.		39	36	142	3,102	2,921	1.26%	03/10/2008 to 18/02/2009
Southern	Siavonga	2	1	0	141	139	1.42%	02/12/2008 to 16/02/2009
	Livingstone	2	2	0	23	21	8.70%	06/12/2008 to 02/02/2009
	Mazabuka	1	3	7	192	184	0.52%	09/12/2008 to 18/02/2009
	Sinazongwe	0	1	1	140	139	0.00%	05/01/2009 to 18/02/2009
	Kalomo	0	0	0	1	1	0.00%	02/02/2009 to 09/02/2009
	Choma	0	1	0	18	18	0.00%	25/01/2009 to 16/02/2009
Total Prov.		5	8	8	515	502	0.97%	02/12/2008 to 18/02/2009
Central	Chibombo	0	0	0	2	2	0.00%	07/01/2009 to 07/01/2009
	Kabwe	0	0	9	116	107	0.00%	29/01/2009 to 18/02/2009
	Mumbwa	4	1	0	86	82	4.65%	12/12/2008 to 16/02/2009
Total Prov.		4	1	9	204	191	1.96%	12/12/2008 to 17/02/2009
Copperbelt	Ndola	0	0	0	33	33	0.00%	30/12/2008; 16/01 to 18/02/2009
	Masaiti	0	0	0	5	5	0.00%	-

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that views and opinions given herein are as objective and factual as possible, should you have cause to doubt the validity of the data, please do not hesitate to contact any of the people/organisations listed in the contacts section of the bulletin

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	Kitwe	0	0	0	11	11	0.00%	23/01/2009 to 18/02/2009
	Luanshya	1	0	0	1	0	100.00%	15/01/2009
Total Prov.		1	0	0	50	49	2.00%	30/12/2008, 16/01 to 18/02/2009
North Western	Solwezi	1	2	0	27	26	3.70%	14/12/2008, 16/01 to 09/02/2009
Eastern	Nyimba	2	1	0	12	10	16.67%	20/01/2009 to 04/02/2009
Combined Total		3	3	0	39	36	7.69%	14/12/2008 to 09/02/2009
National Total		62	54	161	4,988	4,765	1.24%	10/09/2008 to 18/02/2009

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UN Country Team Contact List

Name	Designation	Contact Number	e-mail
Mr Macleod Nyirongo	Resident Coordinator	+260-97-8772539	macleod.nyirongo@undp.org
Ms Jennifer Kargbo	Director - ECA/SRDC	+260-97-7790312	jkargbo@uneca.org
Ms Viola Morgan	Country Director - UNDP	+260-97-7405606	viola.morgan@undp.org
Dr Olusegun Babaniyi	Representative - WHO	+260-97-7771270	babaniyio@zm.afro.who.int
Mr James Lynch	Representative - UNHCR	+260-97-7862004	lynch@unhcr.org
Mr Gerry Finnegan	Representative - ILO	+260-97-7640954	finnegan@ilo.org
Ms Lotta Sylwander	Representative - UNICEF	+260-97-7770385	lsylwander@unicef.org
Dr Nouredin Mona	Representative - FAO	+260-95-5742009	nouredin.mona@fao.org
Mr Pablo Recalde	Country Director - WFP	+260-97-7790824	pablo.recalde@wfp.org
Dr Duah Owusu-Sarfo	Representative - UNFPA	+260-97-8343384	duah.owusu-sarfo@undp.org
Mr Josiah Ogina	Head of Mission - IOM	+260-97-8770760	jogina@iom.int
Ms Maha Aon	OIC - UNAIDS	+260-97-8016093	aonm@unaids.org
Dr Kapil Kapoor	Country Manager - World Bank		k Kapoor@worldbank.org