



Key Points

- Impending teachers' strike threatens recovery of the education sector.
- Downward trend in reported cholera cases continues.
- Food security situation for rural households improves as lean season ends.

I. Situation Overview

Recent developments in Zimbabwe's political and economic environment present opportunities for improvement in the humanitarian situation. Among these are the Short-Term Emergency Recovery Programme (STERP) and the 100-day implementation plan following a retreat early this month by ministers in the Inclusive Government.

Priority areas in the STERP include reforms in social protection, social services, economic stabilization and political governance.

However, these opportunities are threatened by resource constraints largely influenced by unresolved issues in the Inclusive Government. To date, the STERP is less than 20% funded, with only \$400m of the \$2b urgently required in the short-term having been pledged by African countries, while it is not clear how the \$10b needed for long-term programming will be raised. Donors have made it clear that financial support will not be rendered in the face of outstanding political issues in the implementation of the Inclusive Government's Global Political Agreement (GPA). Outstanding issues include key appointments such as ambassadors, permanent secretaries and provincial governors among others. Further, concern has been expressed on continued human and property rights violations, such as farm invasions.

In addition to failing to raise money, the cash-strapped Government's retention package for key sectors, which includes \$100 allowances for civil servants, faced its first challenge with teachers threatening to strike in May if their remuneration is not improved.

Meanwhile, the number of reported cholera cases continues to decline, although indications are that it may reach 100,000 cases if unchecked.

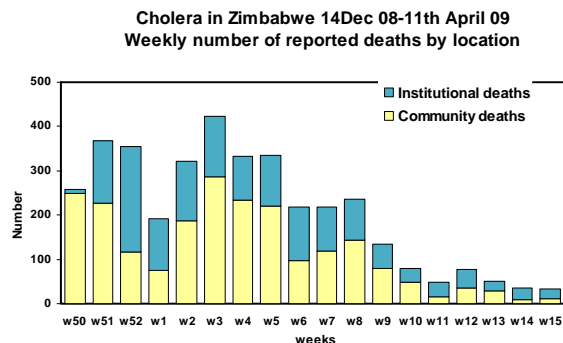
The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

II. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Health

The downward trend in reported cholera cases continued throughout April. By 30 April, the cumulative cholera case load was at 97,476 up from 94,013 on 31 March. The cumulative number of deaths since August 2008 stood at 4,271 from 4,115 at the end of March. During April, Harare, Manicaland and Mashonaland West provinces accounted for between 73% and 90% of total cases reported.

Cumulative community deaths remained high at 2,613 in the period up to April, accounting for 61,2% of total deaths. The percentage of daily reports received has improved from 50% during the first week of April to 65% this week.



Source: WHO

The Cholera Command and Control Centre (C4) has continued to roll out the PUSH system of providing medical supplies to the districts. All provinces have received the provincial cholera kits and generators, which are being delivered by the logistics working group. Different organizations are still providing support to the control effort across the country including case management, NFI distribution, borehole drilling and water trucking. Computers and communication equipment were also donated to the

Ministry of Health and Child Welfare (MoH&CW) by WHO, with the aim of strengthening surveillance through better data management in the context of the decentralization of C4 activities to provincial and lower levels.



Community mobilisation for prevention of cholera. Photo courtesy of GOAL

Despite the decrease in reported cases, the health cluster has warned that the population remains at risk of another major outbreak as long as the water and sanitation infrastructure is not restored.

There is need for continued support to the MoH&CW in building capacity on outbreak preparedness and response; outbreaks detection, investigation and monitoring; and strengthening surveillance systems.

Supporting the restoration of the community health worker network in the context of the Ougadougou declaration on revitalization of primary health care would also assist the health system. Further, there is need for strategic planning on preparedness to avert similar outbreaks in future.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster continues to respond to cholera spikes as they occur. Particular emphasis in April has been in Harare, including Chitungwiza and Mashonaland West, namely Chin^hoyi and Karoi towns.

Karoi received almost no water for weeks and negotiations with the national power utility Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) in the district are underway to ensure at least some power each day for pumping of water.

Water treatment chemicals have been distributed to 20 urban centres, including Harare. This programme has now secured funding for at least six months with the intention to provide immediate and continuous water treatment and hence safe water pumping. The initiative also aims to allow councils space to develop an appropriate revenue base, ensuring equitable provision, cost recovery and cross subsidies, taking into account the needs and capacities of all population sectors to pay for services and particularly supporting the most vulnerable.

Assessments in urban areas for immediate emergency rehabilitation of water and sewage systems have been carried out in Chinoyi, Chitungwiza, Kadoma, Kwekwe, Marondera and Mutare. Similar efforts are on-going in Bindura, Bulawayo and Gweru.

Basic hygiene kits distribution continues in 14 districts, Harare and Chitungwiza. During April non-food items (NFI) were distributed to some 93,000 households, reaching at least 465,000 people. In Harare and Chitungwiza 27,732 families received kits.

Evaluation of NFI distribution in three districts enters its last week and will cover Beitbridge, Harare and Mount Darwin. The survey has covered households, NGO and Government district partners involved in the process while providing opportunity for partners to respond to an on-line questionnaire.

WASH cluster members report training over 27,000 people in basic hygiene. Water trucking continues in Chitungwiza and Kadoma, with some support being provided to trucking in Karoi, with over 4.2 million litres having been distributed. Meanwhile, partner organisations report rehabilitating 122 boreholes during April. In addition 5,000 litre water tanks have been distributed to 111 schools and 28 health facilities and other institutions.

Consultants will be on board early May for the WASH response evaluation, learning and preparedness exercise. It is hoped that the process will be completed by end June 2009.

For more details consult the weekly WASH situation report and summary WWW tables.

Protection

Farm invasions continued in April and assessments undertaken at 25 farms over the last two months confirmed that a total of 3,105 households were affected. The areas affected include Chegutu, Masvingo, Mazowe, Harare and Zvimba districts, together with sections of the Manicaland province,

This has resulted in loss of employment or lack of access to basic services, shelter and sources of livelihoods for affected farm workers and their families. Although assistance was already being provided in the form of basic household NFIs to 152 families, these represent only about 5% of the confirmed farm workers affected. Access for a comprehensive humanitarian response to most of these families remains a challenge due to the sensitivity surrounding the issue.

The Protection Working Group (PWG) has been working on the revision of the CAP 2009, providing input to the CHAP and revisiting the protection response plan. Several new projects have been submitted to OCHA for inclusion into the revised CAP 2009.

IASC discussions related to the roll out of the Protection Cluster have also taken place initiating discussions at the working group level. The PWG is finalizing the modalities and timeframe related to the actual roll-out and a process to ensure the dedicated cluster coordinator has been initiated, with the resource person expected to join UNHCR soon.

In April the working group conducted two trainings in Harare on Preventing and Responding to gender-based violence (GBV) in Zimbabwe and on the IASC GBV guidelines and the Minimum Initial Service Package on Reproductive Health. A total of 63 participants representing 25 humanitarian organizations were trained. Similar trainings are slated for Bulawayo from 4 to 9 May. A number of other protection training and capacity building activities organized by agencies at field level also took place. These included training for pastors, religious leaders and district facilitators in provision of psychosocial support to survivors and perpetrators of GBV in Gokwe and Masvingo as well as a Training of

Trainers (TOT) in gender mainstreaming in Harare and Bulawayo.

Plans are also underway to hold workshops in early May for project coordinators on child related legislation while SGBV related training will be held for Victim Friendly Unit officers in Beitbridge district. A situational analysis of the child protection situation at the Chirundu border crossing point has been done and findings are being analyzed. A joint evaluation mission for the IOM/UNFPA/UNICEF/SCF humanitarian project on GBV in cross-border migrants was undertaken by DFID evaluators. The overall feedback from the mission was positive.

The Gender Theme Group submitted a GenCap request which was approved by the GenCap Secretariat. The main outputs expected from the placement include effective gender mainstreaming in all sectors or clusters including early recovery and enhanced skills among gender sector actors in monitoring and evaluation for gender equality and reporting on gender equality results. Currently, the selection process of the candidate is underway.

UNHCR continued with organization and facilitation of visits by the resettlement countries such as USA and Australia. In April a mission from the USA conducted interviews with about 70 refugee families whose cases were deemed in need of resettlement. Another 20 families will be interviewed by an Australian mission during 1st week of May. The office continues to pursue resettlement as a durable solution and protection tool for refugees in Zimbabwe.

Food

Between April and May, the Food Cluster plans to conduct a Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (C-FSAM) and a vulnerability assessment (ZimVAC) to determine the needs for the next lean season. Based on the findings, it is envisaged that WFP will apply for a budget revision to amend the planning figures for the next season which is expected to commence in August/September 2009 and will most likely be revised upwards.

With the harvest due to commence in April, some cluster members stopped the seasonal Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme in April but are maintaining distribution to beneficiaries under the year-round Safety Net (SN) activities. This will reduce

the caseload from about five million in March to 640,000 in April and 800,000 from May onwards when schools re-open in May.

In April the cluster planned to distribute 6,759 Metric Tonnes (MT) in urban and peri-urban areas under the Safety Net (SN) activities including cholera patients, staff and caretakers.

Nutrition

The Nutrition Working Group (NWG) reports that following a stakeholder review meeting in March a draft framework for a revised nutrition surveillance system has been developed by the Food and Nutrition Council. The framework combines strengthening routine data collection in 10 sentinel districts on a monthly basis with a household survey every one to two years. A revitalised Surveillance Taskforce is being established with boarder participation of partners and the Food and Nutrition Council will present the framework to the taskforce for finalization. Data collection has commenced for the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey which includes nutrition assessment and replaces the March round of data collection for the Food and Nutrition Sentinel Site Surveillance.

In April, the working group conducted a five-day training on the SMART methodology for nutrition assessments. Until recently NGOs have not been officially able to undertake nutrition assessments in Zimbabwe and so the aim of the training was to increase capacity of working group members in emergency nutrition assessments. The training drew 25 participants from NGOs, government and the UN. Working with the new Nutrition Surveillance Taskforce the working group will determine if and how the SMART methodology will be used in Zimbabwe, emphasizing the adoption of harmonized approaches to nutrition assessment among partners.

The roll out of training in Community Management of Acute Malnutrition continues with training of 26 health workers in Chitungwiza. Over 250 health workers in five provinces have been trained this year. The MoH&CW is developing plans to conduct district levels trainings in all provinces.

Further to the action plan developed by the Infant and Young Child Feeding Taskforce in March, two sensitisation meetings were held in Harare and Bulawayo in April. A total 95 provincial level health

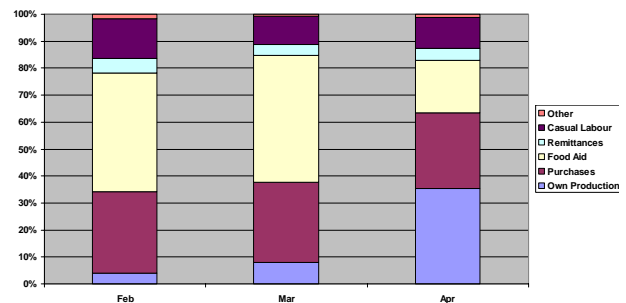
staff from all 10 provinces were reached. The MoH&CW commenced road shows to raise community awareness on exclusive breastfeeding in Nyanga District in Manicaland. These will be conducted in 31 wards and 300 health workers were trained on the benefits of exclusive breast feeding to facilitate their support of the road shows.

As the 2009 CAP revision is underway, new projects submitted by the working group focused on infant feeding in emergencies linked to management of acute malnutrition. This aspect of emergency nutrition interventions is underfunded in Zimbabwe.

Agriculture

The Agriculture Working Group (AWG) has reported an improvement in the food security situation for rural households dependent on crop production as the lean season ends. By the beginning of March, the early planted maize was being harvested as green maize, together with other seasonal food crops, including garden produce and fruits. Further, grain from own production is increasing as the major source of grain for most households while prices of agricultural commodities are on the decline.

Sources of Grain Consumed 2009



Source: FAO

The quantity of rainfall received this season was in the normal to above normal ranges with better distribution than last year. It was also exceptionally good in the Mashonaland and Matebeleland regions although the eastern part of the country was affected by a late start to the season and a prolonged dry spell of more than 20 days in mid-February 2009.

Despite numerous challenges in sourcing and distributing agricultural inputs, the area planted under

maize was slightly lower, covering 1.5 Ha million compared to the 1.7 million Ha planted last year. There was great improvement in the timing of planting as compared to last year with the bulk of maize being sown between November (33%) and December (49%). A large proportion of the area under maize was planted using retained grain and food aid, which have a lower yield potential than certified seed. According to the monthly FAO Crop Performance Monitoring System which is conducted in collaboration with 14 NGO partners in 18 districts, about 20% of the sampled households planted maize which was distributed as food aid grain. Of the households that planted food aid grain, 68% reported the performance to be ranging from fair to good.

The second Round National Crop & Livestock Assessment was conducted in April 2009. The report has been finalised and is scheduled for presentation to Cabinet in the first week of May, after which the results will be publicised. This report provides production estimates of both food and non-food crops as well as yields of the different crops. Preliminary analysis suggests that maize production is likely to be higher than the 575,000 MT achieved in 2007/08, although it will still fall below national requirements.

Education

An impending strike by teachers in May threatens to stifle efforts to revive the education sector. Educationists attending the Zimbabwe Teachers' Association (Zimta), annual congress held from 24 to 26 April, resolved not to return to work when schools reopen for the second term in May unless their allowances are revised to salaries of US\$1,500.

Teachers have been receiving a US\$100 monthly allowance, which is inadequate to meet their basic needs. This has been e education sector continues to face challenges regarding teachers' salaries as teachers continue to get an allowance of US\$100 which is not enough to support their families. In an Education Working Group (EWG) meeting held on 22 April, teachers' unions reported that the situation is ambiguous and it might not be possible to open schools in May. Unless the teacher issue is addressed, the majority of children, particularly orphan and vulnerable children (OVC), will not access education which is a basic right.

Meanwhile, the EWG and its partners are preparing to distribute teaching and learning materials to 2,243 primary schools before schools reopen.

Logistics

In April, the Logistics Working Group (LWG) provided transport for cholera response items to the field for various organizations. A cumulative 48 CTCs/Hospitals received food and NFIs to address cholera cases. In particular, the LWG is working in close partnership with the health cluster to support their push strategy by transporting cholera kits on a daily basis from the Harare hub to all districts and provinces in Zimbabwe.

In line with the decline in cholera cases, the working group discontinued its free transport services during this month. New transport or warehousing requests must be addressed to Vladimir Jovcev, the new LWG coordinator on email: vladimir.jovcev@wfp.org

Due to the decline in cholera cases, the working group's meetings are now being held on a monthly basis. Inscription to the mailing list can be done online on the website: www.logcluster.org/zwe09a



A logistics working group truck transporting food at cholera treatment centre in Bindura. Photo courtesy of WFP.

Early Recovery

The Early Recovery Working Group (ERWG) held a retreat aimed at improving understating about early recovery, determining its area of focus and discussing coordination with other clusters.

With the 2009 CAP Revision underway, the early recovery response plan has been updated, a call for

new projects sent out and all projects have been reviewed for submission to OCHA.

The early recovery 3W (who is doing what, where) tool, developed in consultation with the OCHA Information Management Unit (IMU) was initially rolled out through major partners. Preliminary results are being compiled and the tool is being refined for broader circulation.

VII. Funding

Consultations are on-going with all stakeholders on review of the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) Charter. This is in response to requests by NGOs to make the grant terms more equitable. The Charter has been circulated to the IASC, NGO forum, Nango and UN agencies for comments. The finalized Charter should be ready for adoption by 15 May. So far, the ERF is supporting 18 projects. These include 10 WASH, four health, two agriculture, one protection and one education projects. Following completion of the charter, the ERF will be open to receive funding proposals to make use of the Fund's current balance of US\$1.7 million.

In 2009 the Zimbabwe Consolidated Appeal requires US\$546 million and is 40% funded as of 30 April 2009. Nevertheless, it is to be noted that the funding in 2009 includes a large carry-over from 2008 amounting to approximately US\$ 116 million, as well as a allocations from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) of US\$19 million. If measuring direct donor funding received over 2009 excluding carry-over and CERF, the actual funding coverage amounts to only 15%. At the same time last year, the funding coverage of direct donor funding amounted to over 25%. A short analysis of the numbers will show that in 2009 direct donor funding has been lagging behind considerably.

The top five donors to the Zimbabwe Consolidated Appeal 2009 currently are the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, Netherlands and Australia covering nearly 13% of the total requirements. Unmet requirements for the appeal as of 30 April stand at US\$327 million.

The humanitarian community acknowledges the generous contributions of donors towards Zimbabwe's humanitarian emergency and anticipates increased funding support to meet all priority needs of the country's population.

All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an email to: fts@reliefweb.int.

VIII. Coordination

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has approved the activation of the Early Recovery, Protection and Education working groups to clusters. While ER has started operating as a cluster, the Protection and Education working groups are in the process of formalizing the request. The working groups on food and agriculture have started discussions on being activated into a cluster on food security.

Meetings scheduled for May are as follows:

- **06 May 2009**
Protection Sector Working Group meeting at 11:00 in the OCHA Boardroom. Contact: ivancic@unhcr.org
- **07 May 2009**
Agriculture Coordination Working Group meeting at 09:00 at the Celebration Centre, 162 Swan Drive, Borrowdale. Contact: Jacopo.Damelio@fao.org
- **08 May 2009**
Nutrition Cluster at 09:00 in the Children's Room at UNICEF. Contact: dstevens@unicef.org
- **13 May 2009**
ERWG meeting at 14:30. Venue to be advised. Contact: fiona.bayat@undp.org
- **28 May 2009**
MVP Working Group coordination meeting at 14:30 at IOM, 142 King George Road, Avondale. Contact: rmachokolo@iom.int
- **Tuesday**
Social mobilization weekly taskforce meeting at 10:00 at UNICEF. Contact: pmathenge@oxfam.org.uk
- **Wednesday**
WASH and Health cholera crisis fortnightly meetings in the WHO meeting room at Parirenyatwa Hospital from 09:00 to 11:00. Contact oluo@zw.afro.who.int and bhenson@unicef.org

- **Friday**
WASH cluster meets on the last Friday of the month at UNICEF. Contact: bhenson@unicef.org

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For more information, please visit <http://ochaonline.un.org/CholeraSituation/tabid/5147/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

To be added or deleted from this SitRep mailing list, please email muwani@un.org or visit www.ochaonline.un.org/Zimbabwe

Cluster/Sector Membership List, May 2009¹

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¹ Please note that this matrix is constantly being updated. Kindly send the names of new member organizations and/or any proposed changes to OCHA.