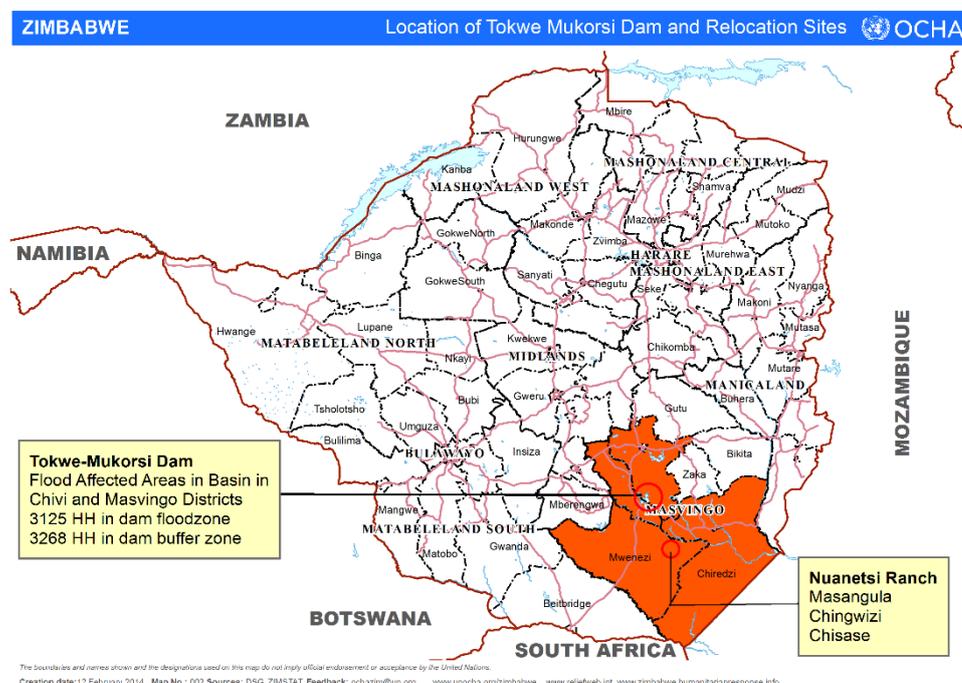




This report is produced by OCHA Zimbabwe in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Zimbabwe. It covers the period from 7 to 14 February 2014. The next report will be issued on or around 20 February 2014.

Highlights

- Incessant rains in early February resulted in floods that affected people around Tokwe-Mukorsi Dam.
- Homesteads in the dam's basin and downstream got flooded creating the need to relocate affected families.
- Thousands of affected families who are either in transit or have recently been relocated urgently need humanitarian assistance.



\$800,000

In ERF funds available to support interventions

63

Boreholes required at Chingwizi relocation site

5

Transit points established

8,167

Primary school children affected

2,296

Secondary school students affected

2,514

Currently being relocated need assistance

Situation Overview

Partners are responding to floods in Masvingo province where heavy rains in early February rapidly raised water levels at Tokwe-Mukorsi dam, which is under construction, creating the need to relocate families in the dam's basin and downstream.

According to the Provincial Administrator for Masvingo province, a phased relocation plan to move 6,393 families comprising about 32,000 people to Nuanetsi ranch, Mwenezi was in progress starting with 1,247 households, when the water level in the dam reached 660 meters. During the second phase 1,878 households would be moved, while another 3,268 households in the buffer zone were scheduled for relocation in the third phase. It was anticipated that phase two of the relocation would take place by October 2014 while phase three would be done by October 2015.

However, when the dam's level rose in February only 611 of the 1,247 families targeted in phase one had been relocated while those targeted in the second phase had not yet started relocating. The affected families left their homes which had either been flooded or faced the threat of flooding and trekked to designated transit points where they receive transport to the relocation site.

+ For more information, see "background on the crisis" at the end of the report

www.unocha.org

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.

Coordination Saves Lives

Consequently 2,514 families comprised of the remainder from the first phase and those from the second phase urgently need to be evacuated as the incomplete dam is rapidly rising due heavy incessant rains in the catchment area. The families also need basic facilities such as food, shelter, clean water and sanitation.

In response, humanitarian partners in early February conducted assessments and started delivering assistance to meet the immediate needs of the families who are directly affected by the flooding. Humanitarian partners met on 10 February to consolidate their resources in order to ensure a coordinated response. The response currently falls short of the needs and urgent funding is required to help speed up assistance.

President Robert Mugabe on 9 February declared a State of Disaster in regard to the basin of Tokwe-Mukorsi Dam, and areas downstream as far as the Triangle area. The Declaration, in terms of Subsection (1) of section 27 of the Civil Protection Act [Chapter 10 : 06; provides that if at any time it appears to the President that any disaster is of such a nature and extent that extraordinary measures are necessary to assist and protect the persons affected or likely to be affected by the disaster in any area of the country, the President may, in such a manner as he considers fit, declare that, with effect from a date specified by him, a state of disaster exists within an area or areas specified by him in the declaration.

The Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) warns that the country's dam levels continue to increase due to the inflows from the rainfall activities in most parts of the country. As at 10 February the national dam levels stood at 73.8 per cent full. Chances of flooding in the flood prone areas of Zimbabwe which include Muzarabani, Gokwe, Middle Sabi, Tsholotsho, Malapati and Chikwalakwala remain high due to significant flows in the major rivers.

Funding

The OCHA-managed Emergency Response Fund (ERF) has \$800,000 available to humanitarian partners to address the priority needs of people affected by the emergency.

Government's Cabinet Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management on 11 February launched an international humanitarian appeal for financial support to help people affected by the floods.

Humanitarian Response

Education

Needs:

- The Provincial administrator reports that altogether 10,462 children comprising 8,167 primary and 2,295 secondary school pupils who are being relocated need access to education.

10,462

Children need access to education

Response:

- A rapid assessment by Cesvi established that there are no schools at Chingwizi, the relocation site where most families are currently being taken.

Gaps & Constraints:

- All 10,462 children urgently need access to education and an appeal is being made for support to set up emergency learning facilities. Although three areas have been identified for satellite schools at the relocation site, there is need for tents to erect temporary classrooms.

Food Security

Needs:

- Food is the most pressing need, particularly at the transit sites where families are assembling before being transported to the relocation site. Altogether 3,125 families at both the transit and relocation sites need food assistance, according to provincial authorities. Most families lost their food stocks during the floods. Although the number of children under 5 is not clear, they also have a special need for supplementary feeding.

Private sector helps with food

Response:

- Most of the food either pledged or provided so far has been from Government and the private sector through the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) and private company Tongaat Hulett. IOM also has sufficient food for 400 extreme cases. The Zimbabwe Farmers' Union has offered three tonnes of mealie-meal, while Progressive Insurance has contributed \$2,000 worth of foodstuffs.

Gaps & Constraints:

- While families are supposed to spend a night at a transit site and receive dinner before being transported to Chingwizi, sometimes they spend about three days waiting for transport, during which they need food.

**Health****Needs:**

- Humanitarian partners have expressed concern about patients on antiretroviral (ARV) therapy who lost their medicines in the floods, children who are missing out on immunization, ante natal care for pregnant women, the threat of malaria and the risk of water borne disease outbreaks.
- Provincial authorities are appealing for essential medicines and mosquito nets for the affected households.
- There no health clinic at the relocation site.

**Essential
Medicines
Required**

Response:

- IOM has provided a mobile clinic and mosquito nets for 200 households at Chingwizi.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is urgent need for essential medicines to cater for the people at both the transit and relocation sites and mosquito nets to help avert malaria among the affected households. Although a place for a satellite clinic has been identified at the relocation site, there is need for tents to erect it.

**Protection****Needs:**

- According to partners, the impact of floods and subsequent relocation has traumatized some of the affected people who are in need of psychosocial support.

**Assessment
needed**

Response:

- Childline has offered teams to assist with psychosocial support such as counselling of those who have been affected.

Gaps & Constraints:

- While the number of people is yet to be established, a rapid assessment by Cesvi notes the urgent need for psychosocial support.

**Shelter****Needs:**

- Out of the 3,125 affected families, 300 received tarpaulins, leaving a balance of 2,825 families in need of assistance. All families receive tarpaulins on arrival, which they either use for roofing or for walls. Although some families managed to transport some building materials, these are inadequate for rebuilding their homes.

5
Transit sites
established.

Response:

- Five transit points have been established in Chivi and Masvingo districts where families are assembling in order to be transported to Chingwizi at Nuanetsi in Mwenezi district.
- IOM and the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) have provided tarpaulins to cater for 300 families. IOM is also expecting delivery of tarpaulins to cater for another 2,000 families.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Most of the affected people need shelter. While the transit points have been established at schools and families are sleeping in classrooms, their belongings are left out in the open where they are exposed to rain and other elements.
- On the other hand, the affected families urgently need shelter at the relocation site, particularly as more rains are anticipated.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene****Needs:**

- According to the Provincial Administrator, 63 boreholes are needed to cater for the affected families Chingwizi. Some of the transit sites are located mainly at schools, where there are boreholes and toilets. However, the absence of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities at Chingwizi increases the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks. There is therefore urgent need for potable water and sanitation facilities at the relocation site. Humanitarian partners have also noted that there is need for disposable nappies for babies and sanitary ware for women and girls.

63

Boreholes required for Chingwizi

Response:

- Environmental Health Alliance (EHA) partners have agreed that Action Contre La Faim (ACF) with support from Oxfam will provide WASH at Chingwizi while German Agro Action will cater for the transit sites and UNICEF will provide hygiene non-food items (NFI) kits.
- Interventions that have been pledged include drilling of boreholes, water trucking, supply of 2,000 to 5,000 liter bladders, provision of drinking water at 5 liters per person, distribution of NFIs and hygiene promotion education. In addition, partners plan to construct latrines at the relocation site.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Transportation is required to move provisions to the province and subsequently the transit sites and Chingwizi.

**Logistics****Needs:**

- Transport to move people from the transit points to the relocation site remains a primary need. Further, there is need to move livestock, which is a source of livelihoods in the affected communities. According to the Provincial Administrator, in June 2014 it was established that there were 18,764 cattle in all areas targeted for the phased relocation. In addition, the families own goats and poultry.

20

Trucks available as at 12 February.

Response:

- A helicopter provided by the Air Force of Zimbabwe continues to assist with transporting people from areas that are inaccessible by road.
- As at 12 February 2014, there were 20 trucks provided by Government, private sector and humanitarian partners to help transport people from the transit to the relocation sites.
- Affected people are being encouraged to take their belongings to the transit sites for onward transportation to Chingwizi.

Constraints:

- Logistics remain a key element in ensuring an effective response. More trucks are required to speed up the movement of people from the transit to the relocation point. Transportation is also required to move food and non-food items (NFI) to the points where people are gathered.
- While it was hoped that families would spend at least one night at transit points before being ferried to Chingwizi, some are spending at least three days while waiting for transport. The availability of more trucks is critical to speeding up assistance, particularly in light of warnings that more rainfall is anticipated.

General Coordination

Humanitarian partners at national level met on 10 February to consolidate available resources and coordinate their response to the emergency. On 12 February the Lead Agencies of each sector came together with OCHA to look at emergency needs and gaps. From that meeting an inter-agency multi-sector assessment was agreed to take place on 13 February and the results fed back to a Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and Donor Meeting on 17 February. OCHA Zimbabwe has deployed two staff members to assist with coordination at provincial level. Partners at provincial level also met on 12 February to consolidate resources and coordinate activities. The meetings will take place regularly and efforts are being made to ensure that humanitarian efforts complement those by Government structures. Humanitarian partners are also working closely with and participating in Government-led coordination structures.

Background on the crisis

Water levels at the Tokwe Murkosi Dam currently under construction rapidly rose to 671 meters above sea level on 3 February 2014 threatening yet to be relocated communities within its basin. On 4 February the water level was 5 meters from overflowing thus extending the scope and extent of the emergency by threatening an estimated 40,000 people. On 5 February the water levels reached just over 672 meters exceeding the Phase I relocation level by 12 meters. Two outlets were discharging 106 cubic meters per second against an inflow of 560 meters per second. The contractor considered opening another new outlet to increase outflow and this would take 4 days to complete.

On 6 February water inflows continued to be more than the outflows and the level rose marginally by 26cm. Work on the outlet continued and would be complete in 3 days. Some damage on the wall (rock fall) occurred at 1200 hours on 9 February 2014 and this further

For further information, please contact:

Matilda Moyo, Information Officer, moyo1@un.org, Tel: +263 4 338836, Cell +263 772 125 285

Modibo Traore, Head of Office, traorem@un.org, Tel: +263 4 338836, Cell +263 772 125 272

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int www.unocha.org/zimbabwe

To be added or deleted from this Sit Rep mailing list, please e-mail: include e-mail address