

HIGHLIGHTS

- Partners assist 9,735 people affected by floods.
- Swift response by humanitarian partners saves lives and creates opportunity to enhance emergency preparedness.
- Food assistance partners engage in efforts to address imminent shortfall.
- Grave concerns over high cases of malaria.

FIGURES

123,969 Malaria cases and **55** deaths reported in the first two months of 2013.

6,843 Suspected typhoid cases reported to date.

2,805 Zimbabweans deported from Botswana and South Africa receive assistance in February.

\$2 MILLION worth of medical supplies donated for emergencies.

FUNDING

131 million requested (US\$)

12.3% funded



Women from Chipinge district, Manicaland province, after receiving their food rations. Photo courtesy of OCHA

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Floods Improve Emergency Preparedness

Deluge Affects Over 10,000 People

Partners continued to respond to the effects of heavy rains that resulted in flash floods in parts of the country in mid-January. Although the rains subsided, communities whose homes and livelihoods were destroyed still needed humanitarian assistance mainly in the form of food and shelter. According to IOM 9,735 of the 10,935 affected people had received humanitarian assistance by end of February, with 1,300 still in need.

Humanitarian partners comprising the UN, NGOs and Red Cross, in coordination with the Department of Civil Protection (DCP) responded swiftly by distributing non-food items (NFI), providing shelter and delivering emergency food to affected communities.

Efforts to Enhance Preparedness and Response Underway

The floods helped to gauge the emergency preparedness of both the humanitarian community and communities at risk. This prompted efforts to improve collaboration between the humanitarian community and the DCP, particularly in early warning and response. Partners, working with the DCP, developed standardized assessment tools and established resident Flood Field Teams in nine vulnerable districts in six provinces, with Harare back-up teams deployable within 48 hours. Partners also committed human and material resources to support the teams.



A crew from Bulawayo City Council collecting their supplies from the WHO warehouse at Parirenyatwa Central Hospital. Photo courtesy of WHO.

Efforts are underway to update information on emergency stocks to enhance preparedness to unforeseen situations. Following a donation of medical supplies worth about \$2 million by WHO to the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare (MOHCW) for pre-positioning, provincial authorities and municipalities started collecting their supplies in February. Health, WASH and Protection partners also consolidated their emergency stock lists.

OCHA continues to support emergency response preparedness (ERP) and disaster management at provincial and district level, while working with the DCP to develop the national contingency plan. [Sources: Health and WASH Clusters, IOM, OCHA & DCP]

Food Assistance Reaches Peak

Partners Seek to Address Impending Grain Shortfall

1.4 million

people reached by the STA programme in February 2013.

Stocks at GMB depots have dwindled, resulting in a shortfall of about 3,500MT against the 7,200MT needed in March.

Food assistance partners in February continued with the response to food insecurity through the Seasonal Targeted Assistance (STA) programme. In light of the prevailing peak hunger season between January and March, the programme scaled up from two districts when it started in September 2012 to the current 38 rural districts. Partners in February 2013 reached more than 1.4 million people, a figure they will maintain until March when the programme ends. WFP is covering the bulk of 37 districts while Christian Care, through the Canadian Grain Bank pipeline, reaches 36,000 people in Matobo district, Matabeleland South province. Assistance is either in kind or a combination of cash and commodities in kind, with about 250,000 people under the Cash-for-Cereals modality receiving cash transfers to buy cereals while cooking oil and mixed pulses are provided in kind. The programme is being implemented in part with regionally procured cereals and grain from the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ)'s Strategic Grain Reserve under a joint food assistance programme, with WFP providing cooking oil and pulses to complete the basket.

21,000 mt

of grain contributed by Government for humanitarian programmes.

By 28 February, the Government had contributed more than 21,000 MT of grain for distribution. However, stocks at Grain Marketing Board (GMB) depots have dwindled, resulting in a shortfall of about 3,500MT against the 7,200MT needed in March. Partners are seeking a speedy solution. However, in the event that stocks are not secured, WFP will use grain originally earmarked for other programmes such as the Health and Nutrition or Social Safety Net. This will strain the pipeline and create breaks earlier than anticipated, which is of concern as Safety Net households host malnourished clients. *[Source: Food Assistance Working Group]*

Waterborne Diseases & Malaria Worsen

Spikes Attributed to Heavy Rains

Health partners continue to battle mostly waterborne diseases and malaria, which were worsened by incessant rains and flash floods early this year. The Health cluster is supporting the MOHCW with post flood assessments and preparedness measures, particularly following an increase in malaria and diarrheal cases compared to the same period in 2012.

Typhoid Continues in Harare and its Environs

Typhoid continues to affect Harare and Mashonaland West provinces, with 684 cumulative cases and one death being reported between 1 January and 28 February. In comparison, from January to end of February 2012, a total 2,649 cases were reported. Over the same period in 2012, cumulative suspected cases since 2011 were 3,772 of which 60 were confirmed. Currently, the cumulative figure for typhoid since October 2011 is 6,843 suspected cases, of which 142 were confirmed, while seven deaths have been reported.

In response Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster partners increased support to local authorities. In Kadoma district, Mashonaland West, partners provided funds for the installation of information booths that reached about 3,100 people, while another 2,000 people were reached through drama groups and the short messaging system (SMS) on their mobile phones.

In Harare, partners provided portable toilets at Glen View Clinic for three months and resources for sewer unblocking and disinfection. Chitungwiza municipality also received water disinfection tablets to assist 5,330 households. These were distributed to people attending clinics.

Health partners continued with case management and surveillance for early detection, coupled with food and water quality monitoring. [Sources: Health & WASH Cluster]

Malaria Cases More than Double Compared to 2012

Health partners are concerned that malaria cases remain above average although there has been a downward trend in the past weeks. A cumulative 123,969 malaria cases and 55 deaths have been reported so far this year, with a case fatality (CFR) of 0.04 per cent. Worst affected provinces are Manicaland and Mashonaland West, with the former accounting for 60 per cent of the cases countrywide.

In comparison, over the same period in 2012, a total of 57,187 cases and 40 deaths had been reported with a CFR of 0.07 per cent. The increase in cases and deaths compared to 2012 has been attributed largely to excessive rains and floods in January 2013.

In response, the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) is working closely with health partners to contain transmission of the disease. Health partners have given assurance that the country has adequate drugs to respond to malaria. Partners are guiding health facilities in proper documentation of outbreaks using line lists and spot maps, while trained Village Health Workers (VHW) are conducting case management in the community. Partners have implored the NMCP to speed up the distribution of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN) in Manicaland to prevent more deaths and to consider targeted Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) for outbreak control. [Source: Health Cluster]

Common Diarrhoea and Dysentery Persist

Common diarrhoea and dysentery remain a concern for health partners. From the start of January to the end of February 2013 altogether 92,572 cumulative diarrhoea cases and 60 deaths were reported, with a CFR rate of 0.06 per cent.

In addition 10,946 clinical dysentery cases and six deaths were reported during the same period, with a CFR of 0.05 per cent. Manicaland and Mashonaland Central provinces were worst affected by both diseases.

In response, partners are engaged in health promotion, case management, provision of NFIs, surveillance and monitoring of food and water quality. [Source: Health Cluster]

Update on Assistance to Migrants

Continued Decline in Deportees from SA & Botswana

Returnee Figures for February 2013

	Beitbridge	Plumtree	Total
Total number of migrants returned	1,658 (-1%)	1,147 (21%)	2,805 (7%)
Number of male returned migrants	1,342 (-5%)	809 (28%)	2,151 (5%)
Number of female returned migrants	316 (17%)	338 (8%)	654 (12%)
Number of unaccompanied minors	23 (35%)	17 (31%)	49 (63%)

Figures in brackets represent the percentage increase over January figures. Source: IOM

Partners in February assisted 2,805 returned migrants from South Africa and Botswana. Altogether

1,658 migrants from South Africa were assisted through Beitbridge Reception and Support Centre (BRSC) while 1,147 from Botswana were served at Plumtree Reception and Support Centre (PRSC). In comparison, during the same period in 2012, altogether 3,740 returned migrants were assisted, of whom 2,510 were from South Africa and 1,230 from Botswana. The dip in figures is attributable to a decrease in deportations from Lindela Holding Facility in South Africa. [Source: Multi-Sector Working Group (MSWG)]

Current malaria cases reflect a 53.8% increase compared to those reported in the first two months of 2012.

Assistance to Third Country Nationals

217%

Increase in the number of TCNs assisted at NTRC in February

A total of 368 Third Country Nationals from the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa were assisted at Nyamapanda Temporary Reception and Support Centre (NTRC) compared to 116 in January, representing an increase of 217 per cent. The same period in 2012 saw 480 TCNs assisted through NTRC. All registered migrants were provided with transport to Tongogara Refugee Camp (TRC). Most of the migrants, about 75 per cent, were from Ethiopia.

A total of 19 Third Country Nationals were assisted at Beitbridge Reception and Support Centre (BRSC) compared to 11, representing an increase of 172 per cent compared to January 2013 and 211 per cent compared to February 2012. All were registered and provided with transport to TRC. Most of the migrants, about 74 per cent, were from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). [Source: MSWG]

In Brief

Partners conduct PHHE training. IOM supported Tsonga Ward in Mudzi district, Mashonaland East province, with training of 60 stakeholders in Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE). The organization will also provide technical support to the local Civil Protection Unit in the preparation of a localized contingency plan. [Source: MSWG]

Funding

Zimbabwe Appeal 12.3% Funded

As at 28 February 2013, the Zimbabwe Humanitarian Gaps Appeal of \$131 million was 12.3 per cent funded at \$16 million. This reflects an improvement compared to the same time in 2012 when Zimbabwe's consolidated appeal was 4 per cent funded at \$11,971,399.

Meanwhile, the OCHA-managed Emergency Response Fund (ERF) continues to support partners who are responding to disasters. In February, the fund provided a \$250,000 grant to IOM to assist households affected by floods. [Source: OCHA & FTS]

Feature

Swift Response to Floods Saves Lives



Saliwe and her family were airlifted to safety assisted with food following floods in Zimbabwe. Photo courtesy of WFP..

On 22 January 2013, Saliwe Sithole woke up surrounded by water as far as her eyes could see. Flash floods in parts of Zimbabwe washed away homes and crops, killing 30 people and countless livestock. The Government, in partnership with humanitarian agencies, responded by providing shelter, food and blankets to cover the basic needs of people affected by the floods.

“Water levels started rising during the night of 21 January and the loud gushing noises kept my children awake,” she says.

“We lay together trying to comfort each other. It was dark and I couldn’t see, but I knew the water was getting really high. I didn’t know if it would get us,” she adds.

Saliwe’s village is very close to the Limpopo River, which divides South Africa and Zimbabwe and flows into Mozambique. Following heavy rains in January, the pressure at the confluence of the Limpopo and Bubi rivers was so great that part of the Bubi bridge collapsed.

A helicopter airlifted Saliwe’s family and 12 other households in the area to higher ground. Partners provided shelter while WFP distributed emergency food rations to affected families. With her food needs covered, Saliwe could focus on other priorities and rebuild her life.

“Instead of looking for food, I can go to the irrigation scheme and work there,” she says, adding that while she is grateful for the assistance received, she looks forward to resuming her normal life.

For more information visit: <http://www.wfp.org/stories/deadly-floods-destroy-homes-not-hope>

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