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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Zimbabwe – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

October 28, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated September 19, 2008.

BACKGROUND

Conditions for most Zimbabweans continue to deteriorate due to the country’s collapsing economy, declining access to basic social services and staple food items, the effects of HIV/AIDS, and recent political violence. Detrimental Government of Zimbabwe (GOZ) policies, corruption, and declining agricultural production have exacerbated the humanitarian situation. Following eight consecutive years of economic decline, which have been characterized by hyperinflation and high unemployment rates, Zimbabwe is increasingly unable to maintain the infrastructure necessary for agricultural production, water and sanitation services, power generation, and steady fuel supply. Commercial land redistribution policies have resulted in a dramatic decline in domestic food production.

Following the March 29 presidential and legislative elections in Zimbabwe, heightened political tension led to general insecurity and significant violence by forces loyal to the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU–PF) against perceived members of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). According to field and media reports, GOZ-sponsored attacks against MDC members and supporters substantially increased in number and severity in the weeks prior to the June 27 presidential run-off election. The instability created new displacement and humanitarian needs, further eroding livelihoods, resulting in loss of housing, and increasing Zimbabweans’ vulnerability and poverty. On June 4, the GOZ announced a suspension of relief activities in Zimbabwe, severely limiting response to the significant humanitarian needs. The suspension was lifted on August 29 and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are attempting to resume activities. Food security for Zimbabweans remains particularly precarious as a result of poor governance, rising global food prices, hyperinflation, and low crop production—the latter due to inaccessibility of sufficient agricultural inputs, adverse climate conditions, and recent violence targeting farm workers. On September 15, ZANU–PF and MDC signed a power-sharing agreement, but disagreements over control of key ministries has resulted in ongoing negotiations and hindered the formation of a unity government.

On October 6, 2008, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Katherine S. Dhanani reissued a disaster declaration in Zimbabwe due to the complex emergency. In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/DCHA has provided nearly \$217.6 million for agriculture and food security, protection, humanitarian coordination and information management, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs, as well as emergency relief supplies and emergency food assistance.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Estimated Displacement from Post-Election Violence	17,355 ¹	IOM ² – July 2008
Population in Need of Food Assistance	5.1 million	FAO ³ and WFP ⁴ – June 2008

FY 2009 AND 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$7,393,573
USAID/FFP⁵ Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$207,676,900
State/PRM⁶ Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$2,520,000
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$217,590,473

CURRENT SITUATION

Following the GOZ’s lifting of the suspension of relief activities on August 29, humanitarian agencies in

Zimbabwe are working to re-establish field operations. However, reports from relief agencies indicate that in

¹ Field reports indicate significantly higher numbers of displacement, but lack of access has hampered verification activities.

² International Organization for Migration (IOM)

³ U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

⁴ U.N. World Food Program (WFP)

⁵ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁶ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

Masvingo and Manicaland provinces, the geographic areas, beneficiary populations, and sectors in which NGOs are permitted to work could be at the discretion of local authorities. In addition, according to USAID staff, the GOZ's decision in early October to suspend the country's inter-bank transfer system is hindering humanitarian operations for NGO partners. USAID continues to stress the need for complete and unhindered access in order to provide critical humanitarian assistance to beneficiaries in Zimbabwe.

Despite the September 15 signing of a power sharing agreement, as of October 28, ZANU–PF and MDC had yet to reach consensus on establishing a unity government, due to ongoing negotiations regarding control of key ministries.

Priority Humanitarian Needs

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Summary of Gaps Analysis for October to December 2008 indicates that emergency agriculture programs, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities, and assistance to persons affected by politically motivated violence are critically needed humanitarian interventions in the coming months.

In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$7.4 million for agriculture and food security, protection, and WASH interventions targeting vulnerable populations in the urban centers of Bulawayo, Harare, and Mutare, and in Manicaland, Masvingo, and Midlands provinces. USAID/OFDA also supported emergency assistance to mobile and vulnerable populations as well as international coordination and information sharing among humanitarian actors operating throughout the country.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA plans to expand programming in critical sectors, including agriculture and food security, protection, and WASH. Planned humanitarian activities include seed multiplication programs, the provision of fertilizers, support to livestock, and emergency assistance to mobile and vulnerable populations.

Agriculture and Food Security

Multiple relief agencies have expressed concern over continued deteriorating food security throughout the country due to hyperinflation, high market prices, and a shortage of basic commodities. According to the June FAO/WFP crop assessment, more than 2 million people in Zimbabwe currently require emergency food assistance, and approximately 5.1 million Zimbabweans will require emergency food assistance in early 2009. On October 9, WFP announced a \$140 million appeal to fund the provision of emergency food rations to an estimated 4 million beneficiaries through April 2009.

The 2008 national average yield of maize production was one of the lowest on record comprising approximately 40 percent of the 2007 yield, according to national assessments. Relief agencies attribute the exceptionally

low 2008 maize yield to late planting due to untimely and inadequate delivery of agricultural inputs, a lack of working capital and fuel, and poor livestock conditions following the 2007 drought. In addition, FAO and farmers unions report a critical shortage of seeds and fertilizer throughout the country. FAO and the Commercial Farmer's Union of Zimbabwe estimate that 10,000 MT of maize seeds are available against an estimated 30,000 MT requirement, while 18,500 MT of fertilizer are available against a 167,000 MT requirement.

According to FAO and multiple agricultural experts, farmers must receive all agricultural inputs no later than November 15 in order to take advantage of the first rains that typically commence in mid-November. However, FAO and several NGO and U.N. partners have noted that funding additional seed and fertilizer programs in Zimbabwe for the current season cereal season is inappropriate as insufficient time remains for seed and fertilizer procurement, transport, registration, and distribution to enable planting. Instead, some donors have decided to direct available funds to support WFP operations. In early October, FAO recommended that relief agencies provide inputs for the January to February second planting for roots, tubers, wheat, legumes, and seed production and stressed that donors and NGOs must begin planning immediately for the 2009–2010 agricultural season. Following FAO's recommendations, donors are investigating ways to provide assistance for the upcoming January to February planting season.

As of October 3, WFP and the Consortium for Southern Africa Food Security Emergency (C-SAFE) were in the process of registering and verifying vulnerable families throughout the country for vulnerable group and safety net distributions, according to USAID staff. These large scale food distributions are scheduled to commence as soon as possible. C-SAFE partners are also distributing seeds and fertilizers for the current season's first rains, which typically commence in mid-November.

In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA contributed approximately \$2.2 million to FAO, C-SAFE, and NGO partners to support agriculture and food security initiatives. The programs improved food security for individuals residing in drought-prone and marginal lands through the construction and rehabilitation of water catchment structures, the provision of training in conservation farming, and improvement of livestock health. In addition, the U.S. Government is the lead donor to WFP emergency food assistance operations in Zimbabwe. In FY 2008, USAID/FFP provided more than 151,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at approximately \$176.3 million, through WFP and C-SAFE.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided 27,000 MT of P.L. Title II emergency food assistance valued more than \$31 million, through WFP.

Nutrition

USAID staff and the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) report that despite indications of increased cereal shortages, the July nutrition surveillance data did not indicate an increase in acute malnutrition levels among young children in the seven districts surveyed. USAID staff note that a lack of rising malnutrition levels may be partially due to cultural intra-household practices that tend to direct available food to children. However, UNICEF also notes that the recently deteriorating humanitarian situation could result in rising malnutrition levels in the coming months. A joint UNICEF/GOZ Food and Nutrition Council nutrition surveillance survey scheduled to commence in early November is expected to provide further information regarding current malnutrition levels and priority humanitarian needs. Results of the survey are scheduled to for release in late November.

To prepare for possible increases in acute malnutrition cases, UNICEF is scaling up resources for therapeutic feeding at more than 60 therapeutic feeding units in the urban centers of Harare and Bulawayo, and in Mashonaland, Masvingo, Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, and Midlands provinces. Interventions comprise providing staff training in Matabeleland South and Mashonaland East provinces and stocking ready-to-use therapeutic food for distribution to affected populations, including approximately 21.9 metric tons (MT) of plumpy nut and an estimated 3.7 MT of therapeutic milk.

Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

On October 20, OCHA reported 145 suspected cases of cholera, including 16 deaths, in Chitungwiza, a peri-urban area south of Harare with 1 million inhabitants.

OCHA noted that an additional 47 suspected cholera cases, including six deaths, occurred in Chinhoyi, Mashonaland West Province, and that three deaths occurred out of three reported cases in Mudzi District, Mashonaland West Province. According to OCHA, lack of clean water for domestic use is accelerating the spread of the disease, with some residents resorting to open defecation due to the breakdown of sanitation services and intermittent provision of water supplies. In addition, the lack of running water has led affected populations to use unprotected shallow wells. OCHA has expressed concern that the onset of the rainy season could result in increased cholera cases if authorities fail to address countrywide WASH needs. OCHA has also stressed the need to establish a system for centralized data collection regarding the cholera situation in Zimbabwe.

On October 14, OCHA reported 10 suspected anthrax cases in Hurungwe District in Mashonaland West Province. The U.N. World Health Organization is currently gathering additional information regarding reported anthrax cases.

To reduce vulnerability to water and sanitation-related diseases, USAID/OFDA supports WASH activities in the urban areas of Bulawayo, Harare, Mutare, and Masvingo and in drought-affected districts in Midlands Province. These programs provide basic hygiene items, such as soap and jerry cans, and conduct public health promotion activities. In Bulawayo, WASH programs also provide alternative water sources through the installation of rainwater harvesting systems in households, schools, and other institutions with poor access to water. In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$2.7 million for WASH activities in Zimbabwe, benefiting more than 737,000 people.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE

USG ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2009			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE¹			
WFP	27,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$31,380,800
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$31,380,800
TOTAL USAID/DCHA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2009			\$31,380,800

¹Estimated value of food assistance.

USG ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2008			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Multiple	Agriculture and Food Security; Economy and Market Systems; Protection; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Mangement	Bulawayo, Harare, and Manicaland, Masvingo, and Midlands provinces	\$2,084,685
Multiple	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Bulawayo	\$562,623
Multiple	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Emergency Relief Supplies	Midlands Province; Bulawayo, Harare, Mutare, and Masvingo	\$3,505,399
Multiple	Emergency Assistance to Mobile and Vulnerable Populations	Countrywide	\$950,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$100,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$100,000
	Administrative Support		\$90,866
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$7,393,573
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
C-SAFE	91,090 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$99,536,900
WFP	60,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$76,759,200
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$176,296,100
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
JRS	Refugee Transit Center	Harare area, Mashonaland East Province	\$20,000
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance and Preparedness	Zimbabwe and neighboring countries	\$2,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$2,520,000
TOTAL USAID/DCHA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2008			\$183,689,673
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2008			\$186,209,673

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of October 28, 2008.

² Estimated value of food assistance. FFP totals include 61,590 MTs of Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust commodities worth an estimated \$72.4 million.



Ky Luu
 Director
 Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance