

## Situation Overview

Rains have receded over the past two weeks but have left major infrastructure damages to roads, homesteads and schools. The meteorological department reported that the country has received the peak of rainfall for the season and that while more rains are expected, they should not cause major flooding incidents. The Met Department is monitoring cyclonic activities over Madagascar which may influence weather patterns in the country. Beitbridge (Mashonaland South), Tsholotsho (Mashonaland North), Nyanga (Manicaland), Chiredzi (Masvingo) are among the areas worst affected with some homesteads and schools destroyed, and road networks cut off. Access has remained particularly difficult to areas in Beitbridge and Nyanga. On 4 February, the Department of Civil Protection (DCP) reported that the Limpopo river which experienced significant increases in flows and burst its banks at B35 station on the 20th of January and caused flooding in Beitbridge, has significantly decreased river levels from over 10 metres to around 2 metres. The DCP reports further that flows in the country's major rivers have been on the decline since the 28 January as a result of the dry spell experienced across the country. A slight decrease in dam levels was recorded between 28 January and 4 February. Chances of flooding in the flood prone areas of Muzarabani, Gokwe, Middle Sabi, Tsholotsho and Chikwalakwala are currently very low unless rainfall activities increase significantly.

## Response to affected people

Recent assessments indicate that 9,700 people have been affected by floods since December 2012. Of that number, 5,910 people have been verified as needing humanitarian assistance according to IOM. Shelter kits, blankets, food, non-food items, WASH kits and cash have been provided to at least 2,380 people by the Government and humanitarian partners. UNICEF is providing support in the form of 'school in a box' to 23 schools in Masvingo and Manicaland which suffered extensive damages with roofs being blown away, walls and/or toilets collapsing after heavy rains. WFP is following up on food needs. The clusters are continuing with assessing the available stocks in the country. Distribution of relief assistance is continuing. (Refer to annex for response per district). OCHA is working with IOM to process an Emergency Response Fund (ERF) application amounting to \$250,000 to address non-food needs.

## Coordination at National level

The DCP hosted a National Platform on 6 February, with various Government departments, UN agencies and NGOs participating. The meeting discussed coordination and response to the floods. The DCP, supported by OCHA, is leading the development of awareness campaigns to sensitize communities in flood-prone areas on timely evacuation. The DCP is also spearheading the establishment of flood field teams which consist of DCP personnel, NGO and community members. Field Teams are being established in Mashonaland Central (Mbire and Centenary), Manicaland (Chipinge), Midlands (Gokwe North and Gokwe South), Masvingo (Chiredzi), Matebeleland South (Beitbridge), and Matebeleland North (Tsholotsho). So far, the following NGOs have committed to support the



Roads have been rendered impassable by heavy rains. IRC vehicle stuck in mud in Ward 24, Sadomba in Nyanga. Photo Courtesy/ IRC

DCP-led field teams: IOM, International Rescue Committee (IRC), German Agro-Action (GAA), Plan Zimbabwe, Save the Children, World Vision, ACF, and OXFAM. This is in light of continued concerns for certain parts of the country to experience flooding from backflow in areas located near dams.

The DCP, together with humanitarian partners, is leading efforts to establish a commonly agreed upon rapid response tool that encompasses Government sector interests and humanitarian clusters.

## Matebeleland South

**Beitbridge:** The Emergency Health Alliance (EHA) conducted an assessment of health and WASH facilities in Chikwalakwala, Chituripasi and Chaswingo in Beitbridge district on 27 January. There are 35 households reported to be camping in Chikwalakwala Ward 1 as at 25 January. Five boreholes were flooded. In Chituripasi, 25 households were camping at Chituripasi police post. The families were only reported to be spending nights at the police post while they spend the days at their homesteads and fields. Three out of the six boreholes have been affected by floods. In Chaswingo, 17 homesteads were destroyed during a flash flood. In the three areas mentioned above, there has been a large scale destruction of infrastructure including water points. The District has proposed an exercise to conduct an inventory of functioning water points to determine extent of damages and rehabilitation requirements.

In Beitbridge town, there was a three day interruption of tapped water supply as a result of damages suffered to the electricity transformer and flooding of pumps and motors after torrential rains experienced on 20 January. The residents resorted to the use of the 35 boreholes in the district, but some boreholes are feared to have been contaminated. The city environmental health department in the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare (MoHCW) is conducting an assessment of the boreholes to prioritize disinfection of contaminated ones. The EHA delivered 20 boxes of water treatment tablets, 10 boxes of water makers, 20 jerry cans, 42 boxes of green bar soap, 2000 fliers on diarrheal prevention for distribution to affected areas and one box of Oral Re-hydration Salts (ORS). Another five buckets with taps and one bag of chlorine was delivered. Health and hygiene education promotions are ongoing by MoHCW. The MoHCW through the district environment health department has mobilized health promoters. World Vision and IOM have pledged assistance for logistics (fuel and vehicles).

## Manicaland

**Nyanga:** District authorities supported by IRC and Mercy Corps led two teams in conducting assessments in Sadomba and Sabvure areas in Nyanga on 30-31 January. In Sadomba, a team consisting Government officers from ministries of National Housing, Public Works, Health, Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) and Local Government was supported by IRC in assessing several locations in Sadomba. The team visited Nyarukova primary school, the Councilor of Ward 4, Spring Valley Secondary School and also three homesteads. The team reported that there are infrastructure damages in ward 24 Sadomba area where 28 houses are damaged, and 27 toilets, 3 granaries and 2 bans collapsed. Spring Valley school has a roof which was damaged a windstorm. Quotations for repairs have been made and sent to the Ministry of Education. There is water logging at Nyarukova primary school mainly affecting the teacher's residence and fields. The water and sanitation situation is good. A foot bridge at Chidya river was swept away. There are high malaria cases at Nyarumvurwe and Dombo clinic ward 24.

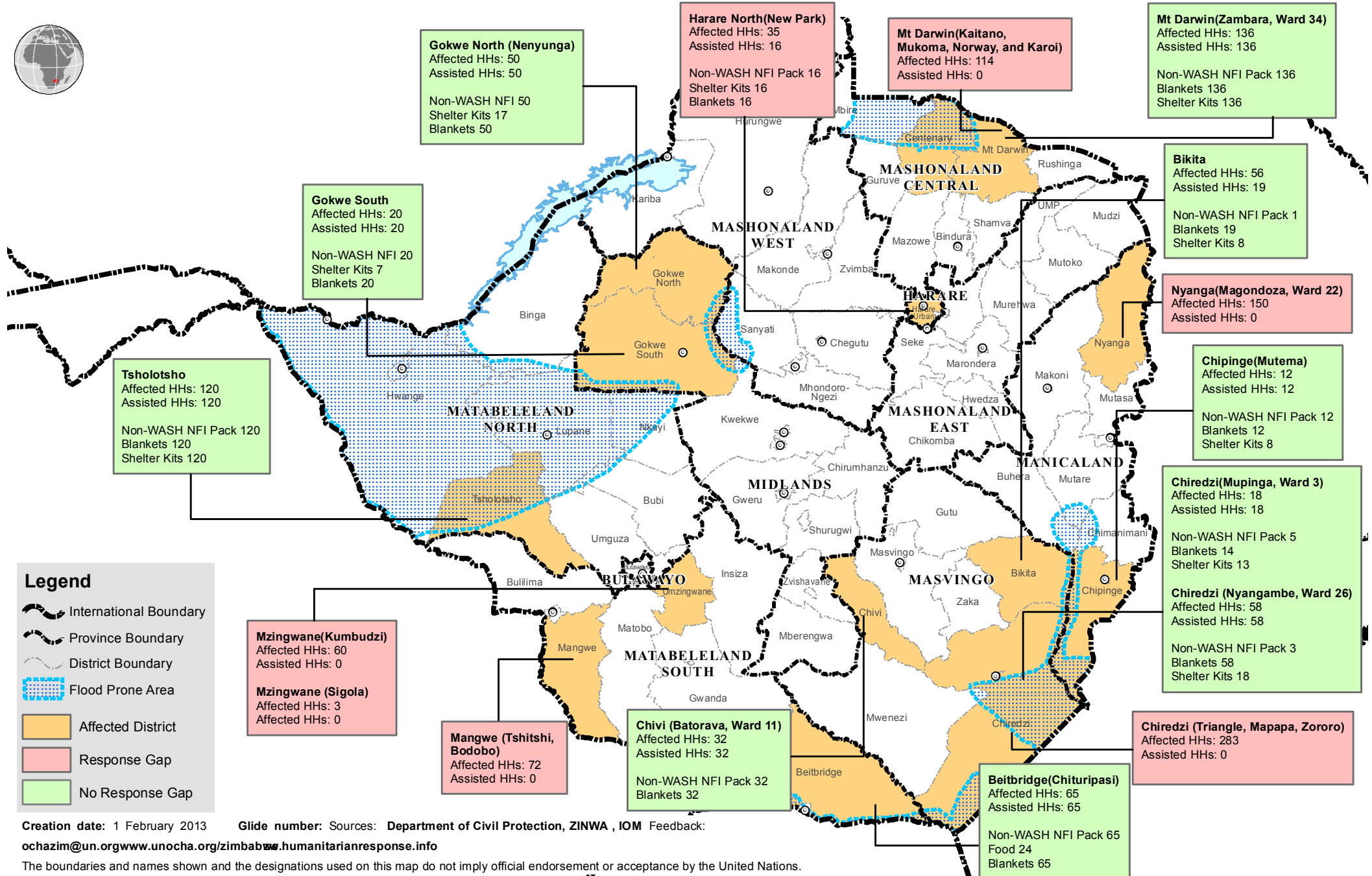
Team 2 consisted of Government officers from the District Development Funds, Public Service Commission, and ZNA supported by Mercy Corps visited Sabvure where two households had lost members of their families in the floods in January.

The IRC will assist MoHCW with Water guard tablets and fuel for motorized EHTs, support health campaigns, distribute water guard and monitor surveillance. Mercy Corps is going to support DDF with all the materials needed to repair 7 boreholes and Aqua tabs for the vulnerable communities. DDF will work with local village 'pump minders' to speed up the process of borehole repairs. IOM distributed tents and soap to the affected families in Boore and Hanga villages.

### For further information, please contact:

Paul Thomas, Officer in Charge, [thomasp@un.org](mailto:thomasp@un.org), Tel. (+263) 772 125 303  
Thandie Mwape-Villadsen, HAO, [mwapet@un.org](mailto:mwapet@un.org), Tel. (+263) 772 125 274

# ZIMBABWE: Flood and Storm Response (from 25 January to 7 February 2013)



Creation date: 1 February 2013

Glide number: Sources: Department of Civil Protection, ZINWA, IOM Feedback:

ochazim@un.org www.unocha.org/zimbabwe/humanitarianresponse.info

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.