

HIGHLIGHTS

- Communities stranded as floods destroy infrastructure.
- Delivery of food assistance affected in some districts, while partners fear flood-related outbreaks as waterborne diseases persist.
- Cereals available but expensive, as livestock prices dip in drought-affected areas.

FIGURES

30 people die due to rainfall-related incidents in January 2013.

2,525 Zimbabweans deported from Botswana and South Africa receive assistance in January.

26,000 Hectares destroyed by armyworm.

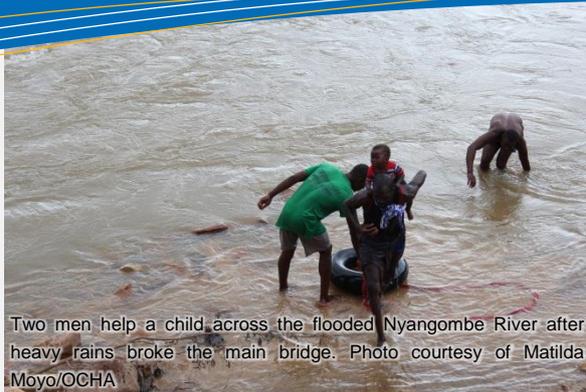
48,630 Diarrhoea cases and **32** deaths reported in January.

1.4MILLION people receive food assistance.

FUNDING

131 million requested (US\$)

1.5% funded



Two men help a child across the flooded Nyangombe River after heavy rains broke the main bridge. Photo courtesy of Matilda Moyo/OCHA

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Floods leave trail of destruction

30 People Killed and More than 6,000 Affected



People who were displaced from their homes following floods in Chituripasi, Beitbridge in January 2013 receive NFI kits. Photo courtesy of IOM.

Heavy rains in mid-January caused localised flash floods in various parts of the country, affecting livelihoods and destroying infrastructure. Seven provinces were affected, albeit to varying extents. According to the Department of Civil Protection (DCP), 30 people died through drowning, collapsing structures or lightning, while some families lost food reserves and domestic animals. Bridges and roads were also substantially damaged in some areas.

The humanitarian community, in partnership with the DCP, responded promptly by conducting joint assessments followed by relevant assistance to affected communities. Some recommendations from the assessments included movement of people to higher ground, preparedness for malaria and diarrhoea outbreaks, flushing and treatment of boreholes and improved disease surveillance. As of 31 January, IOM had verified the emergency needs of 6,880 individuals, although 3,380 people had received assistance. The assistance varied depending on the needs of affected households and included distribution of non-food items (NFI) and blankets to 3,095 individuals and emergency shelter to 1,970 people. However 2,805 individuals still required emergency assistance in the form of NFI, WASH and food in Beitbridge, Chiredzi, Tsholotsho and Nyanga districts. It was anticipated that these would be assisted in early February.

Due to heavy rains in upstream neighbouring countries, such as Angola and Namibia,



The broken bridge at Nyangombe River in Nyanga district, Manicaland reflects some of the infrastructural damage caused by torrential rains. Photo courtesy of Matilda Moyo/OCHA.

resulting in higher water levels in the Zambezi River, there are risks of major water backflows in tributary rivers failing to discharge their water. In view of this, and although the national response has been commendable, OCHA is seeking ways to further improve coordination of preparedness and response efforts between operational partners and provincial and district Civil Protection Committees (CPC). OCHA and partners, in consultation with the DCP, are establishing multi-sector field teams to support provinces and districts in early warning and sensitisation of flood prone populations living along rivers, while standardizing assessment and rapid response efforts. Resident field teams are being established in districts where participating

organisations have a presence. In districts where organisations have no presence, back-up teams that will be deployable within 48 hours are being established in Harare. [Sources: IOM, DCP & OCHA]

Food Assistance Intensifies

Partners Reach 1.4 million People Despite Challenges Caused by Floods

Food assistance partners continued to scale up operations, adding another 200,000 people to those fed in January.

Food assistance partners in January intensified the response to food insecurity as hunger worsened. The first quarter of the year is traditionally the peak hunger season in Zimbabwe. The Seasonal Targeted Assistance (STA) programme, which is the main response by humanitarian partners, increased coverage to more than 1.4 million people in 38 districts in January 2013, from 1.2 million people in 35 districts in December 2012. The World Food Programme (WFP) is covering the bulk of 37 districts while Christian Care, through the Canadian Grain Bank pipeline, covers 36,000 people in Matobo district, Matabeleland South province. Assistance is either in-kind or both cash and in-kind with over 250,000 people receiving cash under the Cash for Cereals programme. The programme is being implemented in part with regionally procured cereals and a grain contribution from the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) under the joint food assistance programme with WFP.

Heavy rainfall in most parts of Zimbabwe, coupled with flash floods, affected food distributions in some districts during the latter half of January. The torrent damaged infrastructure such as roads and bridges, thereby compromising access to some of the targeted people. In some areas, delivery trucks carrying humanitarian assistance got stuck in mud, while in other cases roads became impassable. Worst affected areas included Beitbridge, Centenary, Chipinge, Chiredzi and Guruve. In most instances, deliveries were delayed as transporters sought alternative and often longer routes in order to reach people. Some partners shifted to new food distribution points, which meant people had to travel longer distances to access food assistance. The rains have also resulted in delayed dispatches of cereals from the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) district depots because of outside storage facilities which make it impossible to load when it is raining. [Source: Food Assistance Working Group]

Partners battle Typhoid, Diarrhoea and Malaria

Fears of Rainfall-Related Disease Outbreaks

Partners continue to battle waterborne diseases, which they have warned will be difficult to contain as long as water and sanitation challenges persist. Health partners anticipate malaria and diarrheal disease outbreaks due to heavy rains and floods, hence they are monitoring disease trends through the weekly rapid notification system. In addition, partners are monitoring weather patterns issued by the Meteorological Department, while drawing up a health strategy in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare (MOHCW). [Source: Health Cluster]

Typhoid and Diarrhoea Spill into 2013

Typhoid and diarrhoea spilled into 2013, with cases and deaths being reported in January. According to the Health Cluster, 660 typhoid cases were reported between 1 and 31 January 2013, although there were no deaths. From October 2011 when the outbreak started to 31 December 2012, a cumulative 5,829 cases and six deaths were reported. Chitungwiza and Harare remain the worst affected areas. Health and WASH partners are supporting the response, while Chitungwiza is holding weekly coordination meetings with humanitarian partners.

Partners also reported 48,630 cumulative diarrhoea cases and 32 deaths, with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 0.07 per cent since the beginning of this year. [Source: Health Cluster]

47% Increase in Malaria Cases Compared to 2012

Partners also reported 62,587 malaria cases and 32 deaths with a CFR of 0.05 per cent from 1 to 31 January 2013. Manicaland province was worst affected. In comparison, over the same period in 2012, altogether 33,532 cases and 29 deaths with a CFR of 0.09 per cent were reported. Current figures represent a 47 per cent increase to those reported in 2012. [Source: Health Cluster]

Migrants continue to receive assistance

Less Returned Migrants Served Compared to January 2012

Humanitarian partners continue to support returned migrants from neighbouring Botswana and South Africa, who reduced by nearly half compared to 2012. By end of January 2013, altogether 2,525 people who were deported from both countries received assistance. In comparison, in January 2012 a total 5,075 Zimbabwean returnees from Botswana and South Africa were assisted. Of these 1,173 were from Botswana through the Plumtree Reception and Support Centre and 3,902 from South Africa through the Beitbridge Reception and Support Centre. [Source: Protection Cluster]

Returnee Figures for January 2013

	Beitbridge	Plumtree
Total number of migrants returned	1,678	947
Number of male returned migrants	1,409 (84%)	634 (67%)
Number of female returned migrants	269 (16%)	313 (33%)
Number of unaccompanied minors	17 (1%)	13 (1%)

Source: IOM

Update on Assisted to TCNs

As of 31 January, 123 Third Country Nationals were assisted at the Nyamapanda Temporary Reception Centre. Most of those assisted were from Ethiopia and comprised 51 per cent, while those from DRC were 43 per cent and Rwanda 6 per cent. The assistance included medical attention, psychosocial support, a cooked meal, temporary accommodation and transport to Tongongara Refugee Camp. [Source: Protection Cluster]

Agricultural and Food Security Update

Armyworm Outbreak Successfully Contained

By end of January, the armyworm outbreak that affected Zimbabwe since December had been brought under control. The European Union (EU) provided \$75,000, through the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to support the Government response. The funds were used to purchase chemicals and fuel for use in containing the outbreak. The armyworm feeds on cereal crops and pastures. Although all eight rural provinces experienced outbreaks, Masvingo was worst affected. [Source: Agriculture Coordination Working Group (ACWG)]

The number of returned migrants from Botswana and South Africa dipped by nearly half compared to January 2012.

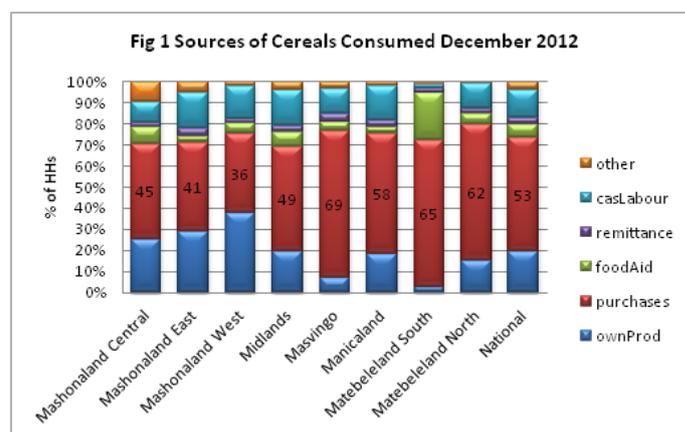
Distribution of armyworm outbreaks across the provinces

Province	Field Crops	Pastures	Total Area (Ha)
Mashonaland Central	2,846	71	2,917
Mashonaland West	1,581	35	1,616
Mashonaland East	60	1,033	1,093
Manicaland	52	197	249
Midlands			7,733*
Masvingo	4,177	6,299	10,476
Matabeleland North	458	628	1,086
Matabeleland South	820	1,200	820
Total	9,994	9,463	25,990

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development. *Note data from Midlands was not specific.

Cereals Available but Expensive

According to the Agricultural Food Security Monitoring System (AFSMS) cereals were available in most of the monitored sites. Maize meal was the main cereal available in the southern parts of the country, while grain was available in the north. Purchases from other farmers and distant markets, followed by own production and casual labour, were the main sources of grain in December 2012. In Matabeleland South food aid was the second source of cereals. Households indicated that despite cereals being available on the market, they were expensive. [Source: ACWG]

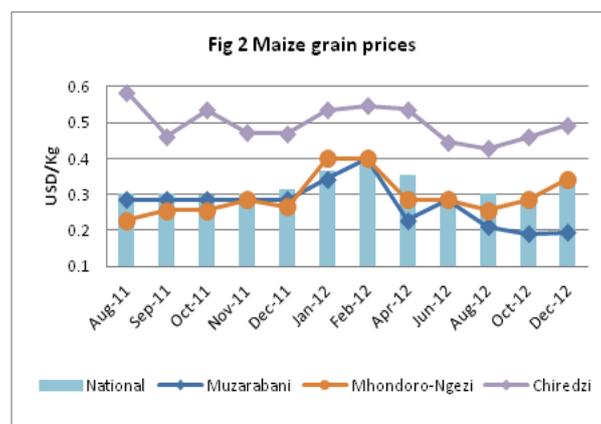


Source of cereals consumed in December 2012. Source AFSMS.

Cereal prices shot up in line with the peak hunger season, making food expensive for some households.

Grain Prices Rise as Peak Hunger Season Starts

Grain prices continued to rise and were higher than at the same time in 2012 in most monitored markets across the region in December. However, such increases are typical for this time of the season due to dwindling supplies. The national average price for maize grain was US 34 cents per kg. The lowest price of 19 cents per kg was recorded in Muzarabani district, Mashonaland Central province, while the highest was 49 cents per kg in Chiredzi, Masvingo. The cattle terms of trade were favourable to households with cattle in Mashonaland East and those with grain in the Midlands province. [Source: ACWG]



Maize grain prices. Source WFP

Livestock Prices Decline in Drought Affected Areas

The average price of a cow across the monitored sites was \$356.56, with the lowest being \$212.50 in Mangwe district, Matabeleland South and the highest \$525 in Chirumanzu, Midlands. Prices were lower in drought affected areas. Goat prices remained relatively stable and ranged from \$27 to \$40.

Meanwhile, due to the onset of the rainfall season, water availability and grazing conditions improved significantly, together with cattle conditions. The AFSMS also reported an increase in the number of sites that were not dipping cattle. However in sites where dipping occurred it was conducted once or twice a month. *[Source: ACWG]*

In Brief

Preparations for nutrition survey in progress. The MOHCW, in collaboration with the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC), UN agencies and NGOs, is finalizing preparations for a repeat nutrition survey to assess and analyze the impact of drought on nutritional outcome in 10 drought affected livelihood zones. Data collection is planned for 11 to 15 February. The first assessment was conducted in November 2012 to establish a baseline. *[Source: Food and Nutrition Coordination Committee (FNCC)]*

Update on nutrition sector coordination. The Nutrition cluster was deactivated as of December 2012. However, nutrition sector coordination remains a priority and activities continue, led by the MOHCW with support from UNICEF and FNC. Nutrition sector coordination is also recognized as a priority action as per food and nutrition security policy and its implementation matrix, which was further refined and finalized in January 2013, by FNC and its Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that comprises key ministries, FNC, UN agencies and NGOs. Furthermore, FNC has embarked on its multi-sector coordination role and support to the Office of the President and Cabinet on food and nutrition security issues through the high level food and nutrition security task force that meets weekly, comprising ministers and permanent secretaries, as well as decentralized structures through district and provincial Food and Nutrition Security Committees. *[Source: FNCC]*

Changes in WASH cluster coordination. Oxfam, in line with a global decision, has withdrawn from the role of WASH Cluster co-lead. It is appropriate that the role of co-lead be taken over by a national NGO at this time of transition when efforts are focussed on strengthening national capacity. This will ensure that there is capacity in the country to provide leadership and coordination of an emergency response. *[Source: WASH Cluster]*

Funding

Humanitarian Appeal Starts with 1.5% Funding

Government and humanitarian agencies in Zimbabwe on 15 January launched an appeal for \$131 million to address persistent needs through the Zimbabwe Humanitarian Gaps 2013. As at 31 January the Appeal was 1.2 per cent funded at \$1.5 million.

Officially launching the Appeal, United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) for Zimbabwe, Mr. Alain Noudéhou acknowledged the improvements in the country's humanitarian situation, resulting in a 2013 Appeal that asks for approximately half of the resources requested in the 2012 Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP).

"The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe has continued to improve and remains largely stable. This is due to the concerted effort by the Government of Zimbabwe, donors and other stakeholders to address the humanitarian needs arising from the challenges that the country faced over the last decade," he said.

Mr. Tadeus Chifamba, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Regional Integration and International Cooperation (MoRIIC) echoed similar sentiments, noting that the departure from the traditional CAP bore testimony to improvements in the humanitarian situation.

“It is an acknowledgement that Zimbabwe is on the road to recovery and sustained economic growth,” he said, adding that constant dialogue and engagement between Government and cooperating partners, coupled with developments on the political and economic fronts, had witnessed growing consensus on the need to shift focus from humanitarian to development support. The 2013 Appeal replaces the traditional CAP.
[Sources: OCHA & FTS]

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