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

Zimbabwe – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

June 3, 2011

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Zimbabwe’s humanitarian situation continues to remain stable, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), with no unmet emergency needs, although pockets of vulnerability persist due to localized food insecurity, localized cholera cases, and internal displacement resulting from political violence.
- Staple cereals and other basic foods continue to be generally available throughout Zimbabwe, the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reported, with availability expected to remain stable throughout 2011/2012 due to an adequate overall harvest in April 2011 and projected ongoing economic stability, although a prolonged dry spell in February and March negatively affected harvest yields in some southern, eastern, and northern parts of the country.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Approximate Number of People Reached with Emergency Food Assistance in January–March 2011 Peak of Lean Season	1.2 million people	OCHA – April 2011
Decline in Number of Emergency Food Assistance Beneficiaries in Peak of 2011 Lean Season Compared to 2010	Approximately 66 percent	OCHA – April 2011

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$9,902,295
USAID/FFP¹ Assistance to Zimbabwe.....	\$51,765,900
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$61,668,195

CONTEXT

- In 2010, most Zimbabweans experienced improved humanitarian conditions, although humanitarian needs persist in 2011. Following more than a decade of economic deterioration, vulnerable households continue to experience limited access to health care, education, shelter, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. In 2010 and 2011, Zimbabwe’s economy has improved, and the number of Zimbabweans requiring emergency food assistance has continued to decrease from previous years. Despite improved circumstances, however, Zimbabwe remains in a vulnerable state of recovery, with a portion of the population requiring continued humanitarian support to meet basic survival needs due to localized food insecurity and disease outbreaks, limited access to currency, and displacement due to localized outbreaks of political violence.
- On October 29, 2010, U.S. Ambassador Charles A. Ray reissued a disaster declaration in Zimbabwe due to the ongoing complex emergency. Since FY 2007, USAID has provided more than \$719 million in humanitarian assistance to benefit vulnerable Zimbabweans.

Agriculture and Food Security

- Preliminary figure indicate that the April staple cereal harvest amounted to approximately 1.5 million metric tons (MT) of grain, according to FEWS NET, or roughly the same figure as the 2010 harvest. Maize production increased by 9 percent compared to the 2010 harvest—totaling more than 1.4 million (MT)—according to OCHA. FEWS NET reports that the 2011/2012 consumption year, which begins with the April harvest, will also include significant carryover of food stocks from the private sector; the combination of harvested cereal and commercially available stocks should leave the nationwide cereal gap smaller at this point in 2011 than it was in 2010. FEWS NET expects availability of staple cereals to be stable in 2011/2012, assuming that Zimbabwe’s comparative economic stability continues.

¹ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

- Despite the overall adequacy of the April harvest, a prolonged dry spell in February and March adversely affected harvest yields in some southern, eastern, and northern areas, including parts of Masvingo, Manicaland, Matabeleland South, and Midlands provinces. As a result, FEWS NET expects that harvest stocks for many vulnerable households in those provinces may last for only one or two months, resulting in an earlier start to the lean season for affected areas than the typical September or October. FEWS NET also notes that despite economic growth in 2010 and 2011 to date, persistent unemployment and underemployment continue to constrain the ability of vulnerable households in both urban and rural areas to purchase food.
- In March 2011, the peak of the 2010/2011 lean season, emergency food assistance provided by the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and partners through the seasonal targeted assistance program reached more than 1 million people with approximately 13,000 MT of emergency food assistance, or 100 percent of both targeted beneficiaries and planned tonnage. By comparison, in 2009 more than 7 million people required emergency food aid. The seasonal targeted assistance program ended in March, but WFP's safety net program for particularly vulnerable populations continues and reached more than 150,000 people in April.
- To date in FY 2011, USAID/FFP has provided nearly \$52 million for emergency food assistance to vulnerable Zimbabweans, including funding for 13,200 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance and for regional food procurement.
- FEWS NET attributed the overall, nationwide adequacy of the harvest, despite late dry spells, to good overall rainfall distribution earlier in the season and to improved access to agricultural inputs in 2010 compared to 2009. In FY 2010, USAID/OFDA and others provided significant funding to improve farmers' access to seeds, fertilizer, and tools. To date in FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$440,000 for agriculture and food security programs.

Health and WASH

- In 2010/2011, for the second consecutive year, Zimbabwe has not experienced a recurrence in scope of the cholera outbreak that killed nearly 4,300 people and resulted in more than 98,500 cases in 2008/2009. The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported 879 cholera cases, resulting in 38 deaths, between January 1 and May 15, 2011. Cholera cases in Manicaland Province have accounted for more than 78 percent of cases nationwide to date in 2011, according to WHO; USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.2 million for WASH programs specifically in Manicaland Province in FY 2011, benefiting approximately 400,000 people.
- Although cholera case rates remain more 99 percent lower than during the 2008/2009 outbreak, and despite water infrastructure improvements in 2010 and 2011, Zimbabweans continue to lack access to regular, clean water from municipal systems. USAID/OFDA works to mitigate the risk of waterborne disease through programs in hygiene promotion, distribution of water purification tablets and water containers, and efforts to improve water quality and access to water, including rooftop rainwater harvesting projects at schools and in vulnerable households. USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$5.4 million for WASH activities in Zimbabwe in FY 2011 to date, targeting approximately 1.3 million beneficiaries nationwide.

Protection

- In March and April, OCHA reported increased instances of temporary displacement due to political violence, although no significant amounts of internal displacement or cross-border movement by Zimbabweans occurred. Large-scale internal displacement in urban and peri-urban areas as a result of political violence in recent years continues to negatively impact the livelihoods of already vulnerable populations. However, NGOs and donors believe the urban vulnerability situation has improved since 2009 due to the overall improvement in the economy, availability of food, and humanitarian livelihood interventions in urban areas by NGOs. Results from the recently completed Urban VAC (Vulnerability Assessment Committee) are scheduled for release in the coming weeks.
- Since FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has also committed more than \$3 million to the Joint Initiative, a multi-sector program—implemented by six relief agencies and led by Mercy Corps—that combats urban vulnerability through programs designed to restore urban livelihoods. To date in FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has also provided nearly \$800,000 for protection interventions responding to new and ongoing needs of displaced and vulnerable populations in Zimbabwe.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE

FY 2011			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Adventist Relief and Development Agency (ADRA)	WASH	Midlands Province	\$569,000

Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Agriculture and Food Security	Mashonaland East Province	\$142,439
GOAL	WASH	Mashonaland East Province	\$647,576
International Medical Corps (IMC)	WASH	Mashonaland Central Province	\$643,188
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Protection	Affected Areas	\$2,500,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	WASH	Manicaland Province	\$500,000
Medair	WASH	Midlands Province	\$1,206,694
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	Manicaland Province	\$999,251
Mercy Corps	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Affected Areas	\$1,095,732
Population Services International (PSI)	WASH	Affected Areas	\$1,098,415
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Affected Areas	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$9,902,295
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
Promoting Recovery in Zimbabwe (PRIZE)	7,590 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Matabeleland South, and Midlands Provinces	\$22,630,000
WFP	5,610 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$23,418,000
WFP	Regional Procurement of Food Commodities through the Emergency Food Security Program	Countrywide	\$5,717,900
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$51,765,900
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2011			\$61,668,195

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 3, 2011.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for complex emergency response efforts in Zimbabwe can be found at www.interaction.org. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int