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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 #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

September 19, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated June 26, 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 facilities, 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 supporters and members of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). According to field and media reports, GOZ-sponsored violence 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 and attacks 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 until the suspension was lifted on August 29 and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) began resuming activities. Food security for Zimbabweans remains particularly precarious as a result of poor governance, high global food prices, and low crop production—the latter due to flood damage, extreme dry weather, agricultural input shortages, and recent violence targeting farm workers. On September 15, ZANU–PF and MDC signed a power-sharing agreement, but relief agencies note that the potential impact of the agreement on the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe remains undetermined.

On October 15, 2007, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Katherine S. Dhanani reissued a disaster declaration in Zimbabwe due to the complex emergency and drought. To date in FY 2008, USAID/DCHA has provided more than \$183.6 million for agriculture and food security, emergency relief supplies, protection, humanitarian coordination and information management, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs, as well as 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 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$7,393,573
USAID/FFP⁵ Assistance to Zimbabwe.....	\$176,296,100
State/PRM⁶ Assistance to Zimbabwe.....	\$2,520,000
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$186,209,673

CURRENT SITUATION

The post-election period in Zimbabwe has been marked by significant political tension and violence, loss of life, population displacement, intimidation and harassment of NGO staff, and reduced humanitarian operations and

access. The violence resulted in 178 confirmed deaths and the displacement of more than 17,000 individuals, according to NGOs documenting individual cases of those killed and displaced.

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)

From July 29 to July 31, USAID/OFDA Director Ky Luu visited Harare, Zimbabwe, to consult with humanitarian organizations, U.N. agencies, donor representatives, and Zimbabwean citizens regarding the crisis. Luu noted the urgency of restoring humanitarian access to affected populations prior to the onset of the hungry season in October, when food stocks are typically lowest.

Humanitarian Access

On August 29, the GOZ Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Service, Labor, and Social Welfare (MPLSW) released a press statement lifting the suspension on NGO field operations, which had been in place since June 4. According to the GOZ, relief operations are permitted to resume in the areas of humanitarian assistance; food aid; relief, recovery, and development; family and child care protection; care and protection of older persons; rights and empowerment of persons with disabilities; and HIV/AIDS treatment, care, and support.

Following the lifting of the aid suspension, humanitarian partners quickly scaled up operations in order to provide emergency food and non-food assistance, and no major incidents of denied access have been reported as of September 19. On September 4, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) requested that clusters and working groups conduct a rapid interagency assessment of humanitarian needs and access concurrent with the resumption of relief activities. USAID/OFDA contributes to OCHA in an effort to advance humanitarian coordination and information management in Zimbabwe.

Mobile and Vulnerable Populations

According to IOM, post-election violence has displaced more than 17,000 Zimbabweans, with field reports indicating that the numbers of displaced could be significantly higher. As a result of the severely limited humanitarian access during the suspension of relief activities, tracking and verifying reports of displacement and violence has remained difficult.

To address the needs of mobile and vulnerable populations, USAID/OFDA programs are resuming to support the provision of basic household commodities and emergency relief supplies to families displaced in urban and rural areas. In addition, USAID/OFDA has contributed to a multi-sectoral program implemented by a consortium of NGOs to provide livelihood support and humanitarian protection, improve economic capacity, and reduce food insecurity for urban and peri-urban households in six districts. To alleviate the effects of malfunctioning water and sanitation services in urban areas, an existing USAID/OFDA-funded program also provides soap, sanitary items, and hygiene promotion awareness to mobile and vulnerable populations.

The post-election violence in Zimbabwe has resulted in increased numbers of refugees and migrants fleeing to South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, and Mozambique. State/PRM is providing \$2.5 million to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in order to address protection and assistance for Zimbabwean refugees and to prepare for the possibility of additional refugees should the political situation deteriorate. In addition, State/PRM allocated \$20,000 to Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) for the Waterfalls Transit Center near Harare.

Food Security and Agriculture

According to the Zimbabwe Food Security Working Group, grain is becoming scarce in most areas of Zimbabwe, with declining terms of trade and rising prices worsening food security. Relief partners note that distress sales of livestock in order to buy grain could become a coping strategy for the most vulnerable populations. On September 3, the GOZ MPLSW reportedly approved U.N. World Food Program (WFP) plans to begin a vulnerable groups feeding targeting approximately 1.8 million beneficiaries by the end of October. The number of food insecure individuals is expected to rise to approximately 5.1 million people as of early 2009.

As of mid-August, in-country stocks of food totaled 315,000 metric tons (MT), with a monthly consumption of 147,750 MT nationwide. Imports of approximately 113,000 MT per month would be required to meet the current food deficit of 793,000 MT and monthly consumption requirements. On September 15, OCHA announced that the GOZ aims to provide agricultural inputs to 500,000 households in addition to the 270,000 households that NGOs plan to support. However, field reports indicate that the amount of locally available agricultural inputs could be inadequate for the needed planting area. In late August, the GOZ Ministry of Agriculture reported that power cuts, breakdown of pumps, and unavailability of fertilizers and fuel were hampering winter planting efforts.

USAID staff note that the suspension of NGO activities occurred at a time when planning and preparations for agriculture inputs support programs normally would have taken place. The delay compromised NGOs' ability to design and submit program proposals to donors for much-needed inputs, and, as a result, will likely lead to reduced area under cultivation and lower harvests in April 2009. To support agriculture and food security activities, USAID/OFDA provided funding for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to increase the productivity of smallholder farmers through the provision of agricultural inputs and promotion of improved crop management practices. The program aims to enable 800 vulnerable smallholder farmers to produce sufficient food for household consumption and income generation, which together will contribute to increased food security and income. In addition, USAID/OFDA is supporting a multi-sectoral program

that includes food security and agriculture activities, which enable urban and peri-urban households to cultivate small vegetable gardens that enhance families' food security. USAID/OFDA has also provided funding to the Consortium for Southern Africa Food Security Emergency (C-SAFE) for the supply of inputs and agricultural extension services to 7,500 households during the 2008/09 season.

To date in FY 2008, USAID/FFP has provided more than 151,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at approximately \$176 million, through WFP and C-SAFE.

Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

As of September 15, health workers have reported 10 deaths from cholera in Chitungwiza, a peri-urban area south of Harare with 1 million inhabitants. An additional death due to cholera was reported in nearby Chinota District due to a visit to an infected Chitungwiza resident. 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 to use of unprotected shallow

wells. Water, sanitation, hygiene, and health partners are working closely with local authorities and have developed a cholera sub-group to focus on preparedness and response to the cholera cases.

USAID/Zimbabwe partner Population Services International is stocking retail outlets, clinics, and voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) centers in Chitungwiza with water treatment tablets and is also conducting free distributions of the tablets for area residents. During the week of September 5, USAID/OFDA partner Oxfam/UK assessed disinfection and protection of shallow wells in Chitungwiza and is currently conducting hygiene promotion and awareness activities in conjunction with the local council. The local government is providing water trucking for clinics and sanitation of open sewage. According to UNICEF, the Harare city health authorities are on alert for additional cholera cases in other parts of the city, and the Ministry of Health has agreed to permit future humanitarian assistance in response to the disease. As of September 15, the number of cholera cases was stabilizing, with two to three cases arriving in Chitungwiza clinics per day, down from approximately 10 cases per day during the week of September 8.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE

<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 Management	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

¹USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 19, 2008.

²Estimated 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