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

ZIMBABWE – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

August 16, 2005

Note: The last situation report was dated July 20, 2005.

BACKGROUND

Conditions for the majority of Zimbabweans continue to deteriorate due to ongoing economic decline, high inflation, poor agricultural production, the effects of HIV/AIDS, and detrimental Government of Zimbabwe (GOZ) policies that prevent economic and agricultural recovery. Zimbabwe is experiencing a sixth consecutive year of economic decline and is struggling to maintain the infrastructure necessary for agricultural production, water and sanitation services, power facilities, and fuel requirements. The economic crisis is, in part, the result of the government’s land redistribution program that has destroyed Zimbabwe’s formerly productive agricultural sector.

Since May 18, 2005, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated in Zimbabwe’s urban and peri-urban areas with the launch of the GOZ’s Operation Murambatsvina, or Operation Restore Order. The operation is a massive campaign to demolish informal dwellings and businesses in the country’s major cities that has affected more than 2 million people, according to the U.N.

The poor 2004/2005 crop harvest, the GOZ’s Operation Murambatsvina, high levels of inflation and unemployment, declining access to basic services, and limited commercial import capacity have aggravated the humanitarian situation and will likely increase the number of Zimbabweans in need of humanitarian assistance. Preliminary results from the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZIMVAC) included four different scenarios, which indicated that the number of people in need of food assistance would be between 2.9 million and 5 million, depending on several variables including maize prices and inflation. At present, the most likely scenario points to the highest number, 5 million, which does not include those affected by Operation Murambatsvina.

| NUMBERS AT A GLANCE | | SOURCE |
|--|-------------------|---|
| Population Directly Affected by Operation Murambatsvina | 650,000 – 700,000 | U.N. Special Envoy on Human Settlement Issues in Zimbabwe – July 2005 |
| Population Indirectly Affected by Operation Murambatsvina | 2.4 million | U.N. Special Envoy on Human Settlement Issues in Zimbabwe – July 2005 |

Total FY 2005 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Zimbabwe.....\$4,999,980
Total FY 2005 U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance to Zimbabwe\$16,609,980

CURRENT SITUATION

Operation Murambatsvina. On May 18, the GOZ launched a 10-week campaign to destroy thousands of low-income dwellings, as well as informal markets and stalls in major urban centers, including Harare, Bulawayo, Gweru, Mutare, Kariba, Chipinge, and Victoria Falls. Officially concluding at the end of July, the demolitions resulted in massive evictions of urban households and the destruction of many informal businesses. The campaign was targeted at people deemed to be living in illegal housing or involved in illicit trade. The GOZ implemented Operation Murambatsvina before alternative shelters were available, resulting in hundreds of thousands of newly homeless. Official GOZ figures released on July 7 indicate that 92,460 housing structures had been demolished, directly affecting 133,534 households (approximately 569,685 people). In addition, 32,538 businesses were demolished resulting in the destruction of the livelihoods of 97,614 people.

Secretary General and Executive Director of the U.N. Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT), Anna Tibaijuka, traveled throughout Zimbabwe to assess the humanitarian impact of the ongoing operation and needs of the affected populations. On July 18, the U.N. Special Envoy released a report, based on meetings with GOZ and local authority officials, affected communities, and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and U.N. agencies.

According to the findings of the report, Operation Murambatsvina directly affected 700,000 people through the destruction of homes and livelihoods countrywide and indirectly impacted 2.4 million additional people. The majority of the affected population are among the poorest segment of Zimbabwe and have been forced deeper into poverty as a result of the campaign. Additionally, Operation Murambatsvina has reduced access to health care for many suffering from HIV/AIDS and other chronic conditions.

U.N. assessment of Operation Murambatsvina. From June 26 to July 8, the U.N. Special Envoy to the

Stressing the humanitarian consequences of the campaign, the U.N. Special Envoy called upon the GOZ to “recognize the virtual state of emergency that has resulted, and to allow unhindered access by the international and humanitarian community to assist those that have been affected.” Priority needs identified by the U.N. include food, shelter, emergency relief items, and health support services.

According to an August 5 U.N. World Food Program (WFP) report, GOZ authorities have officially closed transit camps in urban areas, relocating the populations to rural areas, nearby farms, and so-called alternative holding centers such as homes for the elderly.

GOZ plans to allocate more land to military personnel.

According to international media reports on August 9, President Mugabe announced that 6,000 members of the Zimbabwean military will receive plots of land under the government’s land reform program. President Mugabe’s announcement was delivered on Defense Forces Day. President Mugabe also stated that 600 military personnel would get new homes under the government’s housing reconstruction program, which will be launched following the conclusion of Operation Murambatsvina in late July.

U.S. Envoy visits Zimbabwe. From August 10 to 13, 2005, the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Agencies in Rome Tony P. Hall visited Zimbabwe. Ambassador Hall urged the GOZ to remove bureaucratic obstacles preventing NGOs from delivering humanitarian assistance to those in need. During the three-day visit, Zimbabwean security forces prevented Ambassador Hall from visiting Hopley Farm—a camp of approximately 2,000 people recently displaced by Operation Murambatsvina.

Food security. WFP has appealed to donors for approximately 704,000 metric tons (MT) of food assistance for southern Africa—of which 300,000 MT is expected to be used in Zimbabwe. WFP expects a memorandum of understanding to be signed with the GOZ that will allow WFP to resume food distribution before the next harvest in April 2006. Large-scale food distributions targeted to the food insecure rural populations were suspended by the GOZ in May 2004.

WFP has provided 1,400 MT of food to an estimated 65,000 people affected by Operation Murambatsvina. In addition, the Consortium for Southern Africa Food Security Emergency (C-SAFE), an emergency food assistance program comprised of CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and World Vision, is targeting another 20,400 people with 600 MT of USG P.L. 480 Title II food assistance.

According to a June 2005 report from USAID’s Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), the price of sugar increased by 50 percent, rice by 72 percent, and mealie meal by 44 percent. On August 5, WFP reported

long lines at numerous locations countrywide for the purchase of basic commodities such as maize meal, cooking oil, and sugar. Maize meal is selling on the open market for as much as ZW\$5,600 (USD \$.32) per kg in Manicaland, according to WFP. The availability of maize continues to be limited in the provinces of Matabeleland, Manicaland, and Mashonaland. In Manicaland, limited Grain Marketing Board (GMB) maize deliveries have been suspended due to the ongoing fuel shortage.

The GOZ has permitted WFP to use South African corn soya blend (CSB) stocks through ongoing targeted feeding programs, many of which had been suspended since May 2004 following problems with donated stocks. School feedings are scheduled to resume in September 2005, although access to these feedings may be problematic for displaced children.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 29, 2004, U.S. Ambassador Christopher William Dell redeclared a disaster in Zimbabwe due to the ongoing humanitarian conditions and significant humanitarian needs. To date in FY 2005, the USG has provided more than \$16.6 million in emergency humanitarian assistance in response to the humanitarian needs in Zimbabwe.

Since 2002, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$19.9 million in emergency assistance to support vulnerable populations in Zimbabwe. To date in FY 2005, USAID/OFDA has contributed approximately \$5 million to support Zimbabwe’s humanitarian needs in the sectors of livelihood support, water and sanitation, and child protection as well as for the provision of relief commodities.

As part of this assistance, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.8 million to help displaced Zimbabweans by providing relief commodities and services in Zimbabwe. To address water and sanitation needs, USAID/OFDA is contributing more than \$1 million to rehabilitate rural water points in Masvingo Province and to provide emergency water and sanitation services in Matabeleland South Province. USAID/OFDA is also supporting water programs and child protection activities countrywide through a grant of more than \$239,000.

USAID/OFDA is providing \$500,000 to assist food-insecure households in growing vegetables in household nutrition gardens for their own consumption and to earn additional income in the provinces of Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, and Matabeleland North provinces. USAID/OFDA is also contributing more than \$500,000 to implement a livelihood recovery program focused on improving food security as well as water and sanitation facilities for highly vulnerable households in Manicaland Province. In addition, USAID/OFDA is providing more than \$420,000 to enhance food security and restore degraded land through a livestock credit program in Matabeleland North Province. USAID/OFDA has also

provided \$350,000 to support humanitarian coordination countrywide.

To date in FY 2005, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has provided 19,350 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$11.6 million. Since 2002, the USG has provided 475,000 MT of food, worth an estimated \$285 million to the people of Zimbabwe through WFP and the C-SAFE consortium.

In addition, USAID/FFP has contributed 73,500 MT of food commodities, valued at \$51.8 million, to southern Africa through WFP. A significant portion of this assistance will be allocated to meet emergency needs in Zimbabwe. The commodities include bulgur wheat, cornmeal, sorghum, vegetable oil, peas, and beans.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE

| <i>Implementing Partner</i> | <i>Activity</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Amount</i> |
|---|---|--|---------------------|
| USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹ | | | |
| Multiple | Assistance to Displaced Zimbabweans | Countrywide | \$1,849,707 |
| Multiple | Water and Sanitation | Masvingo and Matabeleland South | \$1,020,429 |
| Multiple | Food Security, Agriculture, Water and Sanitation | Manicaland | \$614,367 |
| Multiple | Food Security, Agriculture, Nutrition | Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, and Matabeleland North | \$500,000 |
| Multiple | Food Security, Agriculture | Matabeleland North | \$426,037 |
| UNICEF | Water and Child Protection | Countrywide | \$239,440 |
| OCHA | Coordination | Countrywide | \$100,000 |
| FAO | Coordination | Countrywide | \$250,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA | | | \$4,999,980 |
| USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE² | | | |
| C-SAFE | 6,850 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance | Countrywide | \$4,110,000 |
| WFP | 12,500 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance ³ | Countrywide | \$7,500,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/FFP | | | \$11,610,000 |
| TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2005 | | | \$16,609,980 |

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 15, 2005.

² In addition to FY 2005 contributions, FY 2004 carryover stocks of approximately 50,000 MT are available for distribution in Zimbabwe in FY 2005.

³ USAID/FFP has contributed an additional 73,500 MT of food commodities, valued at \$51.8 million, to southern Africa through WFP, of which approximately 40 percent is expected to be used in Zimbabwe.



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