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

Zimbabwe – Complex Emergency and Drought

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

May 16, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated September 28, 2007.

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 increasing 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 fuel. Commercial land redistribution policies have resulted in a dramatic decline in domestic food production.

Since the March 29 presidential and legislative elections in Zimbabwe, heightened political tension has led to general insecurity and a growing number of attacks 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). The instability and attacks have created new displacement and humanitarian needs, compounding the complex emergency in the country. Combined with past detrimental GOZ policies, including Operation Reduce Prices in 2007 and Operation Murambatsvina in 2005, the ongoing instability has further eroded livelihoods, resulted in loss of housing, and increased Zimbabweans’ vulnerability and poverty. Zimbabwe’s food security remains particularly precarious as a result of poor governance, high global food prices, and low crop yields—the latter due to flood damage, extreme dry weather, agricultural input shortages, and recent violence targeting farm workers.

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 \$58.3 million for agriculture and food security, relief commodities, protection, humanitarian coordination and information management, water, sanitation, and hygiene programs, as well as emergency food assistance.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Estimated Displacement from Post-Election Violence	6,735	USAID Implementing Partner – May 2008
Population In Need of Food Assistance	4.1 million	FAO ¹ and WFP ² – June 2007

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$3,112,474
USAID/FFP³ Assistance to Zimbabwe.....	\$55,189,900
Total USAID/DCHA Humanitarian Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$58,302,374

CURRENT SITUATION

On May 2, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) announced the official results of the presidential election, during which Morgan Tsvangirai, MDC leader, obtained 47.9 percent of the vote against 43.2 percent for President Robert Mugabe. The ZEC also confirmed that the MDC won a majority in the parliamentary elections. Humanitarian organizations anticipate that the political violence will continue and intensify prior to the second-round presidential elections.

The post-election violence has raised concerns about internal displacement—particularly from rural areas to urban centers—as well as new refugee flows and a concomitant increase in humanitarian needs. A growing number of persons are displaced due to property destruction and fear of reprisal. According to field and media reports, acts of violence and intimidation include torture, murder, rape, abductions, conscription into the war veteran organization, and arson in rural villages. The U.S. Department of State reports 20 deaths and 700 other documented people injured, including 200 who

¹ U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

² U.N. World Food Program (WFP)

³ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace

required hospitalization, due to political violence. Additionally, armed groups have burned granaries and killed livestock, negatively impacting food security. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) received reports that groups loyal to the ruling ZANU-PF party have forced white farmers and hundreds of farm workers from their land. MDC members are reportedly leaving home communities out of fear of retaliation.

Field reports also indicate an increasing number of attacks targeting institutions such as hospitals and schools, where fleeing Zimbabweans have sought refuge, and attacks against women and children.

Humanitarian Access

In addition to attacks on civilians, pro-ZANU-PF groups continue to impede non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operations in some areas, affecting the provision of emergency assistance and the implementation of regular programs. In addition to threats and intimidation, war veterans, military officers, and district administrators have designated “no go” areas and erected an increasing number of roadblocks in more remote rural areas, further restricting humanitarian operations.

According to USAID reports, ZANU-PF’s ban on community and public gatherings poses a significant obstacle to NGO programs and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, forcing many NGOs to scale back or temporarily cease operations. In other areas of the country, NGOs have been able to continue program activities without incident. OCHA indicated that the humanitarian community is prepared to increase the scale of humanitarian interventions if access is enabled.

In an effort to advance humanitarian coordination and information management in Zimbabwe, USAID/OFDA has provided \$100,000 to OCHA.

Mobile and Vulnerable Populations

The post-election violence has resulted in an increased number of persons displaced due to arson or fear after being threatened or tortured, according to USAID field reports. As a result of scaled back or interrupted humanitarian activities, tracking and verifying reports of displacement and violence prove difficult. According to a USAID implementing partner active countrywide, the violence has displaced more than 6,500 Zimbabweans.

According to reports received by the U.S. Embassy in Harare, the newly displaced are concentrated in Harare and Mutare, as perpetrators direct most of the violence against rural farmers and laborers, causing an exodus to urban centers. However, USAID field reports also indicate growing violence in high-density suburban areas of Harare. Upon arrival in urban centers, individuals and families often seek refuge at MDC offices or with family members. Many new arrivals are victims of violence seeking medical assistance. As of May 6, most Harare clinics treating victims of violence were at capacity, according to USAID field reports.

On April 19 and 20, USAID staff conducted assessments in Mutare and Nyanga districts, Manicaland Province, to follow up on reports of state-sponsored violence against civilians. Shelter assistance was the most pressing need, as families were sleeping out in the open.

Using existing resources, USAID implementing partners and local NGOs continue to meet the needs of displaced populations. However, additional emergency relief commodities may be required if violence and displacement continues. Items in stock include plastic sheeting, tents, hygiene kits, water containers and tanks, chlorine, solid waste kits, and soap.

To address the needs of mobile and vulnerable populations, in FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has provided \$950,000 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 also contributed nearly \$730,000 to support 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. An existing USAID/OFDA-funded program also provides soap to displaced families to alleviate the effects of malfunctioning water and sanitation services in urban areas.

According to a USAID partner, cross-border movements from Zimbabwe remain relatively unchanged since the election, easing fears about a surge in the number of Zimbabwean refugees in neighboring countries. Most Zimbabweans crossing the border seek commerce, trade, or employment opportunities. According to news reports, 189 Zimbabweans have requested asylum in Botswana since the elections, while Zambia reports that three Zimbabweans have requested refugee status. In South Africa, numbers are larger—estimated at approximately 30,000—partly because filing an asylum application allows immigrants to legally seek work in the country. The governments of South Africa and Botswana continue daily deportations of Zimbabweans found to be illegally in the countries. A USAID partner reported assisting 900 Zimbabweans deported from South Africa at the Beitbridge Reception Center on May 8. This was the highest number of deportees assisted in one day since the center’s opening in 2006.

The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) is supporting the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) in Zimbabwe, as well as programs by the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Zimbabwe and neighboring countries that host Zimbabwean refugees and asylum seekers. To date in FY 2008, State/PRM has provided nearly \$31 million to ICRC and \$38 million to UNHCR for Africa, a portion of which supports programs in Zimbabwe and the surrounding region.

Agriculture and Food Security

According to FAO, the food security situation in Zimbabwe remains critical. Severe flooding followed by extreme dry weather caused considerable damage to the 2008 maize harvest. Shortages and high prices for key agricultural inputs, particularly fertilizer, also contributed to the poor harvest. A large part of the country is experiencing a 75 to 100 percent crop production deficit. The GOZ anticipates cereal production to be approximately 560,000 metric tons (MT)—significantly below the 2007 harvest, according to USAID/Zimbabwe. As a result, the food security of a large part of the population continues to deteriorate.

The post-election violence and subsequent displacement of large numbers of farmers threaten to further compound the country's food crisis by impacting the May harvest and winter wheat planting. The burning of granaries, killing of cattle, and designation of land as "no go" by pro-government groups will limit access to food and contribute to the critical food security situation. WFP and the NGO Consortium for Southern Africa Food Security Emergency (C-SAFE) continue to distribute USAID/FFP-funded emergency food assistance to vulnerable families. Although safety net food distributions typically end at this time of year, given the severe food shortage in 2008, USAID/FFP partners are restarting school feeding programs.

To support agriculture and food security activities, to date in FY 2008, USAID/OFDA has contributed \$100,000 to 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 will contribute to increased food security and income.

In addition, to date in FY 2008, USAID/FFP has provided more than 52,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$55.1 million, through WFP and C-SAFE.

Protection

Due to the increased number of politically motivated incidents of violence, many villagers now sleep in the bush at night and return to farms during the day, as attacks during the night grow more frequent. USAID field staff report that the worst violence is occurring in northeastern and eastern parts of the country. For many rural residents facing violence, medical treatment is difficult, partly due to the growing number of roadblocks preventing medical evacuations. Pro-government groups have targeted hospital staff, exacerbating existing problems associated with overcrowded conditions and inadequate medical supplies.

To address protection issues, the OCHA Protection Working Group developed a framework document and organized a team to delineate roles and responsibilities

for organizations monitoring and reporting on protection and human rights issues. In addition, the working group plans to establish an inter-cluster method of responding to protection concerns in Zimbabwe. The working group is also collecting and disseminating information on medical and psychosocial service providers to NGOs operating in the field so victims of violence can be referred to appropriate agencies for assistance.

To date in 2008, a USAID-supported NGO has provided more than 700 individuals with medical, psychosocial, and protection assistance, treating primarily individuals who arrive in Harare from rural areas. The NGO treats approximately 50 individuals per day and helps patients identify and relocate to safe havens.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions remain a critical challenge throughout Zimbabwe, particularly in Harare and Bulawayo, the country's largest cities. Many Harare residents experience water shortages due to aging infrastructure, lack of foreign currency to import spare parts, fuel shortages, and poor management from the Zimbabwe National Water Authority. In Bulawayo, access to water sources and groundwater for boreholes is limited. Rains during the 2007/2008 season improved water supply and allowed city authorities to relax water rationing. However, the city's aged water infrastructure requires vital upgrades. As such, water shortages persist in Bulawayo, leading residents to resort to unprotected wells and other unsafe sources to obtain water.

Sanitation conditions are deteriorating as soap and other basic hygiene supplies become luxury items for many Zimbabweans. Reduced access to safe water and adequate sanitation, coupled with the collapse of the health system, makes Zimbabweans susceptible to water-related diseases.

To reduce vulnerability to water and sanitation-related diseases, USAID/OFDA has contributed more than \$1.2 million to date in FY 2008 for activities in Bulawayo, Harare, and drought-affected districts in Midlands Province. These programs provide basic hygiene items, such as soap and jerry cans, and conduct public health promotion activities. In Bulawayo, these programs also provide alternative water sources through the installation of rainwater harvesting systems in households, schools, and institutions with poor access to water. In response to cholera outbreaks in the Waterfalls suburb of Harare and Mudzi District in Mashonaland East Province and flooding in Chipinge District in Manicaland Province, a USAID/OFDA partner distributed hygiene items and conducted participatory health and hygiene education using public health promoters, village health volunteers, and local health personnel.

USAID/DCHA 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; Protection; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Bulawayo, Harare, and Manicaland, Masvingo, and Midlands provinces	\$727,041
Multiple	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Bulawayo	\$562,623
Multiple	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; Emergency Relief Supplies	Bulawayo, Harare, and Midlands Province	\$658,110
Multiple	Emergency Relief Supplies	Countrywide	\$950,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$100,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$100,000
	Administrative Support		\$14,700
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,112,474
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
C-SAFE	42,010 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$45,261,000
WFP	10,200 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$9,928,900
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$55,189,900
TOTAL USAID/DCHA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2008			\$58,302,374

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 16, 2008.

² Estimated value of food assistance.



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