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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 #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

June 26, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated May 16, 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 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 steady fuel supply. 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 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). 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. 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 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 \$120.3 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	33,425	OCHA ¹ – June 6, 2008
Population in Need of Food Assistance	5.1 million	FAO ² and WFP ³ – June 2008

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Zimbabwe\$5,959,763
USAID/FFP⁴ Assistance to Zimbabwe.....\$114,352,600
Total USAID/DCHA Humanitarian Assistance to Zimbabwe\$120,312,363

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 non-governmental organization (NGO) staff, and reduced humanitarian operations and access. According to field and media reports, GOZ-sponsored violence against MDC members and supporters has substantially increased in numbers and severity as the June 27 second-round presidential election approaches. The violence has resulted in 85 confirmed deaths and thousands of injuries,

according to NGOs documenting individual cases of people killed and injured during the violence. Relief agencies report continued displacement, particularly from rural areas to urban centers, and a concomitant increase in humanitarian needs.

On June 22, Morgan Tsvangirai, MDC leader, announced his withdrawal from the second round of the presidential election due to ongoing violence and the sense of fear among voters.

¹ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

² U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

³ U.N. World Food Program (WFP)

⁴ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

Humanitarian Access

Since the March 29 elections, a variety of official and unofficial entities acting on behalf of the GOZ have increasingly denied local and international NGOs and civil society organizations access to beneficiaries, according to USAID reports. The access restrictions began in those wards and districts that had been strongholds of the ruling party, but voted for the MDC in the elections. The GOZ expanded the restrictions countrywide on June 4 with a directive from Zimbabwe's Minister of Public Service, Labor, and Social Welfare instructing NGOs and private voluntary organizations to suspend all field operations until further notice. OCHA estimates that the suspension directly affects at least 2 million Zimbabweans who benefit from humanitarian programs.

On June 12, the GOZ issued a letter clarifying the types of food and non-food activities not covered by the suspension. The letter noted that activities that require NGOs to mobilize communities or organize public gatherings are not allowed. However, school feeding programs and operations at clinics and hospitals may continue. Despite the clarification and given the current tense atmosphere in country, many NGOs have taken precautionary measures, such as minimizing staff in program areas and closing offices, and are not presently prepared to resume full operations. In addition, the extent to which national government authorities have communicated the details of the clarification to district and local level officials remains unclear. Reports indicate that NGO harassment and intimidation in rural areas continue, and relief agencies are encountering obstacles when pursuing activities expressly permitted in the clarification letter. As of June 26, most USAID/OFDA activities, including programs in the sectors of water and sanitation, public health promotion, agriculture, food security, and support to mobile and vulnerable populations, are on hold due to the suspension.

USAID/OFDA contributes to OCHA in an effort to advance humanitarian coordination and information management in Zimbabwe.

Mobile and Vulnerable Populations

The post-election violence has resulted in an increased number of persons displaced due to arson, fear following threats or torture, fear of reprisal, and property destruction, according to USAID staff. Field reports also indicate that the violence has resulted in loss of livelihoods, particularly in urban areas where MDC supporters are denied access to vending stalls; loss of agricultural produce and livestock due to theft and arson; increased strain on health institutions as staff are targeted for assisting those injured during the violence; and disruption of the education system. As a result of the severely limited humanitarian access, tracking and verifying reports of displacement and violence prove difficult. According to OCHA, the violence has displaced more than 33,400 Zimbabweans.

Relief agencies report that most of the violence has been directed toward rural farmers and laborers who are associated with or are perceived supporters of the MDC, causing an exodus to urban centers. USAID field reports also indicate a recent increase in violence in high-density suburban areas of Harare.

Until the June 4 suspension of NGO activities, USAID implementing partners and local NGOs were meeting the needs of displaced populations throughout Zimbabwe. From April until the suspension, a USAID partner assisted nearly 7,000 mobile and vulnerable people countrywide affected by the post-election violence. The assistance included the provision of blankets, soap, hygiene products, supplementary food, and emergency sanitation.

To address the needs of mobile and vulnerable populations, USAID/OFDA is supporting the provision of basic household commodities and emergency relief supplies to families displaced in urban and rural areas. In addition, USAID/OFDA is contributing 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.

According to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the nature of the outflow of Zimbabweans into neighboring countries has changed since March 29. UNHCR border monitoring teams report encountering more Zimbabweans who indicate they are fleeing due to political violence, intimidation, and human rights abuses. South Africa hosts an estimated 30,000 Zimbabweans who have requested asylum. Estimates of total Zimbabweans in South Africa range from 1 to 3 million. The Government of Botswana has recognized 500 Zimbabweans as refugees. UNHCR reports that several hundred Zimbabweans have sought asylum in Mozambique, while approximately 20 have requested asylum in Zambia. UNHCR is working with Zimbabwe's neighboring countries to prepare for an influx of Zimbabwean refugees.

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. State/PRM also supports UNHCR programs in Zimbabwe and neighboring countries assisting 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.

Food Security and Agriculture

From April 29 to May 23, FAO and WFP conducted a joint Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM) to determine Zimbabwe's 2008 cereal production, overall food security situation, and food assistance needs. The June 18 CFSAM report estimates the country's 2008 maize production at 575,000 metric tons (MT), approximately 28 percent lower than in 2007, which in turn was 44 percent below the GOZ's 2006 estimate. The CFSAM report attributed the poor harvest to a second consecutive year of adverse weather, untimely delivery of agricultural inputs, fertilizer shortages, and severe economic constraints.

The CFSAM report estimates that the number of Zimbabweans in need of food assistance will peak at 5.1 million—nearly half of the CFSAM's estimated total population of 11.865 million—at the height of the hunger season between January and March 2009. In a June 5 food security alert, the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) anticipated that households in urban areas and districts in southern and western Zimbabwe would experience severe food access problems beginning in June. FEWS NET noted that the country will require significant international assistance to reduce the food gap given the economy's continued deterioration.

The post-election violence and suspension of NGO activities threaten to further compound the country's food crisis. The violence and subsequent displacement of large numbers of farmers is impacting the ongoing harvesting of summer cereal crops and the beginning of the winter wheat planting. Relief agencies have stopped food distributions, including USAID/FFP-funded emergency food assistance, as a result of the GOZ's suspension. According to OCHA, the suspension is affecting WFP's safety net activities and may affect preparations for large-scale general food distributions scheduled to begin in July.

On June 6, police officers apprehended and off-loaded a truck transporting 20 MT of USAID/FFP-funded food assistance. The police officers were following instructions from the military working at the behest of ZANU-PF. Instead of reaching young school children who were the intended beneficiaries, the food supplies in the truck were redistributed to ZANU-PF supporters attending a political rally. The U.S. Government strongly objected to and protested this action and formally requested that the GOZ investigate the matter.

To support agriculture and food security activities, USAID/OFDA is contributing to FAO's program 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, 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.

In addition, to date in FY 2008, USAID/FFP has provided more than 115,500 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at nearly \$114.4 million, through WFP and the Consortium for Southern Africa Food Security Emergency (C-SAFE).

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. Following a field visit to Bulawayo in May, USAID staff report that good rains during the 2007/2008 agricultural season filled the city dams by 70 percent by April. However, the city's aged water and sewage infrastructure continues to deteriorate and experiences frequent power outages, broken water pipes, and blockages of the sewage system. The ongoing deterioration results in substantial water losses due to leakages from dams and pipes. In addition, the lack of funds prevents Bulawayo city authorities from purchasing essential water chemicals, completing repairs or upgrading the infrastructure. As such, water shortages persist in the city, and in some cases, residents have not had access to safe drinking water for up to two weeks due to broken water pipes, according to USAID staff.

Relief agencies note that displaced persons fleeing to urban areas and seeking refuge in churches and other institutions are facing dire conditions. The lack of sanitation and hygiene services has resulted in increasing cases of dysentery and other health problems among displaced populations, according to OCHA. Lack of or limited access to these populations remains a challenge, hindering an effective response.

To reduce vulnerability to water and sanitation-related diseases, USAID/OFDA supports water, sanitation, and hygiene activities in the urban areas of Bulawayo, Harare, Mutare, and Masvingo and in 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 other 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 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; Economy and Market Systems; 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	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		\$14,700
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$5,959,763
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
C-SAFE	91,090 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$86,397,600
WFP	24,490 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$27,955,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$114,352,600
TOTAL USAID/DCHA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2008			\$120,312,363

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 26, 2008.

² Estimated value of food assistance.



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