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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) 2009

February 13, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated January 5, 2009.

BACKGROUND

Conditions for most Zimbabweans continue to deteriorate due to the increasingly severe cholera outbreak, the country's collapsing economy, declining access to basic social services and staple foods, the effects of HIV/AIDS, poorly maintained infrastructure, and political instability and violence. Government of Zimbabwe (GOZ) policies and corruption have exacerbated humanitarian conditions. Through nearly a decade of economic decline, characterized by hyperinflation and high unemployment, the GOZ has failed to maintain the infrastructure necessary for agricultural production, water and sanitation, power generation, and steady fuel supply. To date, food security remains precarious as a result of poor governance, rising global food prices, and low crop production due to insufficient access to seeds and fertilizer, drought, commercial land redistribution policies, and violence targeting farm workers. In addition, hyperinflation and GOZ domestic price controls on maize have reduced farmers' financial incentive to plant.

In September 2008, the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union–Patriotic Front (ZANU–PF) and opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) signed a power-sharing agreement, but ongoing disagreement regarding several areas of implementation resulted in deadlocked negotiations. On January 30, 2009, following renewed negotiations led by the Southern African Development Community, MDC agreed to take part in a unity government. On February 11, MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai took office as prime minister.

On October 6, 2008, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires a.i. Katherine S. Dhanani reissued a disaster declaration in Zimbabwe due to the complex emergency. On December 16, the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires a.i. declared a disaster due to the effects of the cholera outbreak. As part of ongoing response efforts to the cholera outbreak, USAID/OFDA activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) to identify humanitarian needs, evaluate response effectiveness, conduct field assessments, and participate in U.N. cluster meetings. In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, the U.S. Government has provided nearly \$262 million for health, protection, disaster risk reduction, agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs in Zimbabwe, as well as emergency relief supplies and emergency food assistance.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Reported Cholera Cases in Zimbabwe	73,385	WHO ¹ – February 12, 2009
Total Reported Cholera Deaths in Zimbabwe	3,524	WHO – February 12, 2009
Zimbabweans in Need of Food Assistance in February 2009	7 million	WFP ² – January 29, 2009

FY 2009 AND 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$20,219,593
USAID/FFP ³ Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$238,596,100
State/PRM ⁴ Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$3,070,000
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$261,885,693

CURRENT SITUATION

On January 29, 2009, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that approximately 75 percent of the resident population in Zimbabwe requires food assistance, representing the highest percentage of the population requiring food aid of any nation. In addition, OCHA reported a nationwide unemployment rate of 94 percent in Zimbabwe and noted

that the complex emergency has resulted in the emigration of approximately three million Zimbabweans, reducing the resident population to approximately nine million.

According to international media and humanitarian agencies, hyperinflation and the abandonment of the

¹ U.N. World Health Organization (WHO)

² U.N. World Food Program (WFP)

³ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁴ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

Zimbabwean currency have contributed to the collapse of Zimbabwe's medical and education systems. Demands by teachers, doctors, and nurses to be paid in foreign currency have resulted in ongoing strikes, as well as mass emigration of medical and educational professionals, crippling the health and education systems.

In response to Zimbabwe's ongoing complex emergency and cholera outbreak, USAID/DCHA supports WASH interventions and community mobilization programs to reduce the cholera case fatality rate (CFR) and the risk of further spread. In addition, USAID/DCHA continues to monitor Zimbabwe's nutrition indicators, support agricultural interventions to increase productivity and household food security, and provide funding for emergency food assistance. To date in FY 2009, USAID/DCHA has committed more than \$75 million in response to the complex emergency and cholera outbreak.

Cholera Outbreak and Response

Since the cholera outbreak began in August 2008, the disease has spread to all of Zimbabwe's 10 provinces and 56 of Zimbabwe's 62 districts, exacerbated by the collapse of the country's economy and health and WASH infrastructure. As of February 12, cholera had caused more than 3,500 deaths, with nearly 73,400 cases reported, according to WHO.

On January 29, the cumulative number of reported cases exceeded WHO's earlier worst-case projection of 60,000 cases, prompting WHO to increase the estimate, now between 81,000 and 115,000 cases. WHO noted that upcoming seasonal rains have the potential to exacerbate the outbreak, which could continue for several months. According to relief agencies, food shortages have increased the population's susceptibility to cholera.

Throughout January, WHO recorded an increase in weekly new cholera cases, and on February 13, OCHA reported that the outbreak in Zimbabwe remained uncontrolled. In recent weeks, however, WHO has reported a decrease in the overall CFR and a stabilization of weekly cholera death rates. WHO attributes stabilized and decreasing rates to improved case management, more rapid treatment of patients, and improved community mobilization and hygiene promotion activities.

On February 9, OCHA reported suspected or confirmed cholera cases in eight other southern African nations, including the first confirmed cases in Namibia and suspected cases in Swaziland. However, OCHA noted that ministries of health in Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zambia, in cooperation with WHO and OCHA, continue to respond adequately to the increased caseload. USAID/OFDA regional staff note that many southern African nations tend to experience endemic cholera outbreaks every year. OCHA reported concerns regarding increasing case numbers, accurate case figure reporting, and emergency relief supply distribution in Malawi. USAID/OFDA

regional staff will continue to monitor the situation in Malawi in cooperation with humanitarian partners.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has committed \$6.8 million for cholera response activities in Zimbabwe, including WASH interventions, community mobilization activities, provision of emergency relief supplies to affected populations, and support for humanitarian coordination and information management. USAID/OFDA community mobilization and WASH programs include hygiene promotion, disease risk and transmission awareness programs, and home-based water treatment. USAID/OFDA cholera response activities supplement the more than \$4 million USAID/OFDA provided for emergency WASH programs in Zimbabwe in FY 2008.

Agriculture, Food Security, and Nutrition

International media and relief agencies note that hyperinflation has resulted in the inability of most citizens to purchase staple foods, as most stores currently accept only foreign currency. Having already sold most assets, unemployed Zimbabweans have little access to foreign currency, despite the GOZ announcement on January 29 that foreign currencies would be accepted as legal tender. On February 5, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported that approximately 60 percent of Zimbabwean households subsist on only one meal per day.

On January 29, WFP revised the number of Zimbabweans requiring food assistance for the first quarter of 2009 upward by 1.5 million people to 7 million, representing approximately 75 percent of the Zimbabwean population still residing in the country. WFP and the Consortium for Southern Africa Food Emergency (C-SAFE) plan to reduce cereal rations in some areas during February and March due to resource shortfalls, according to USAID/FFP. However, USAID/FFP staff note that WFP and C-SAFE plan to continue distribution of full cereal rations in some highly food-insecure areas and to potentially increase vegetable oil rations in others during March.

WFP noted that projections for the upcoming April harvest are poor, primarily due to lack of agricultural inputs during the 2008 planting season. As a result, WFP and other humanitarian agencies anticipate that food insecurity will likely persist post-harvest. On January 29, FAO reported that Zimbabweans had planted approximately 890,000 metric tons (MT) of maize for the April harvest, significantly less than the estimated 1.6 million MT required to secure nationwide food security. However, according to international media reports, the GOZ has imported only a quarter of the maize required to meet the estimated shortfall to date. Staff from the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) are currently conducting field assessments to accurately estimate food security needs.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has contributed more than \$6 million to humanitarian partners in support of agriculture and food security initiatives, complementing approximately \$2.2 million provided in FY 2008. USAID/OFDA-funded programs support improved food security for individuals residing in drought-prone and marginal lands through construction and rehabilitation of water catchment structures, provision of training in conservation farming, and improvements in livestock health.

USAID is the lead donor to WFP emergency food assistance operations in Zimbabwe. In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided approximately 217,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$238

million, through WFP and C-SAFE to support emergency food aid in Zimbabwe during the current hunger season. USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP will continue to monitor the food security and nutrition situations in Zimbabwe in coordination with U.N. agencies and implementing partners.

Humanitarian Access

Although USAID staff do not report any current GOZ constraints on U.N. agency and non-governmental organization operations, relief agencies report that the collapsed economy hinders operations, limiting access to fuel and foreign currency for staff salaries. USAID continues to emphasize the need for complete and unhindered access in order to provide critical humanitarian assistance to beneficiaries in Zimbabwe

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE

FY 2009			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Multiple	Agriculture and Food Security; Risk Reduction	Mashonaland West, Matabeleland North, and Midlands provinces	\$1,825,606
Multiple	Agriculture and Food Security; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Affected Areas	\$1,766,414
Multiple	Emergency Relief Supplies; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Affected Areas	\$235,826
Multiple	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Beitbridge, Bulawayo, Chegutu, Chirumanzu, Gweru, Harare, Hwange, Kadoma, Masvingo, Mutoko, Mudzi, and Mutare districts, Zimbabwe, and Limpopo Province, South Africa	\$5,400,126
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Affected Areas	\$2,434,000
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$299,180
WHO	Health; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Affected Areas	\$750,000
	Transport of Emergency Relief Supplies	Affected Areas	\$65,632
	Administrative Support and Travel	Countrywide	\$49,236
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$12,826,020
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	65,500 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$62,300,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$62,300,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Refugee Assistance and Preparedness	Zimbabwe and neighboring countries	\$550,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$550,000
TOTAL USAID/DCHA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2009			\$75,126,020
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2009			\$75,676,020

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of February 13, 2009.² Estimated value of food assistance.

FY 2008			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Multiple	Agriculture and Food Security; Economy and Market Systems; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Protection	Bulawayo, Harare, Manicaland, Masvingo, and Midlands provinces	\$2,084,685
Multiple	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Bulawayo Province	\$562,623
Multiple	Emergency Relief Supplies; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Bulawayo, Harare, Manicaland, Masvingo, and Midlands provinces	\$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 and Travel	Countrywide	\$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 ASSISTANCE³			
Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS)	Refugee Transit Center	Harare and Mashonaland East provinces	\$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

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of February 13, 2009.

² Estimated value of food assistance. USAID/FFP totals include 61,590 MT of Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust commodities worth an estimated \$72.4 million.

³ State/PRM also provided more than \$40 million in unearmarked support to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for programs in Africa, a portion of which ICRC used for Zimbabwe. State/PRM also provided \$288,449 to the International Organization for Migration for programs in South Africa and Zambia to monitor, assist, and protect displaced Zimbabweans.