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# UNICEF Zimbabwe Situation Report

Reporting Period: 20 March - 3 April 2003

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## PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS (Based on the 10 point outcome objectives of UNICEF response to the humanitarian crisis in Southern Africa)

### **Outcome objective 1: 95% of children immunized against measles and given Vitamin A supplementation**

- A workshop to review the current Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) activities with the aim of identifying areas for improvement was held from the 24 to 28 March 2003. The workshop was attended by participants from the MoHCW, WHO and UNICEF and the following action points for UNICEF were drawn:
  - Conduct regular monitoring activities of vaccine coverage for all antigens at all levels of the health care delivery system.
  - Provide technical support for district micro- planning activities towards increasing vaccination coverage.
  - Assist EPI unit plan and organize measles mop-up exercise in low coverage districts.
  - Carry out regular monitoring activities on vaccine usage and wastage.
- A meeting was held on the 16 to 21 March 2003, to develop a country application to the Global Alliance for Vaccines Initiative (GAVI) for support for the introduction of the new 'pentavalent vaccine', for injection safety and to update the EPI Multi-Year National plan. The meeting was attended by UNICEF, WHO and Ministry of Health and Child Welfare (MoHCW). The following action points were drawn up:
  - The final document to be circulated to Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC) members during the first week of April 2003 for comments.
  - Final document to be endorsed by ICC during the third week of April and submitted to GAVI during the first week of May 2003.
- National EPI Review activities started on the 1 April 2003 and will end on the 16 April 2003.
- UNICEF will follow up on further estimated requirements and procurement of vaccines and gas for the cold chain system.

## **Outcome Objective 2: Malnourished children identified and rehabilitated and young children prevented from malnutrition**

- National survey covering all 61 districts was completed and data analysis started using consultants from the University of Zimbabwe's Department of Community Medicine.
- Feeding has not been taking place because food at the Murambina Feeding Centre as the feeding points ran out of UNIMIX for child supplementary feeding. The District does not have any fuel to transport UNIMIX to the various sub-holding points.
- Therapeutic feeding using the new protocol has just started. The processes and workflow are still being put in place. In Murambinda Hospital, feeding has taken place every month and children have been weighed.
- The new Protocol for the treatment of severe malnutrition is still being adapted, so the operation is still not flowing as well and nurses still trying to understand the issues involved.

### **Deliveries**

- Four cartons F75 (therapeutic feeding supplies) and 24 cartons of F100 (therapeutic feeding supplies) were delivered to Rusape hospital.
- Five Cartons of F75 and 32 cartons of F100 delivered Bonda Mission hospital  
Nine cartons F75 and 56 cartons F100 delivered to Mutare provincial hospital.
- Thirteen cartons of F75 and 80 cartons of F100 delivered to Chipinge district hospital. (The hospital has had a reduction in deaths due to Severe Malnutrition from about 35 per month before UNICEF supplied Therapeutic Milk, to around three per month at present.
- Three cartons of F75 and 16 cartons of F100 delivered at the Mutambara Missino Hospital.

## **Outcome Objective 3: Communities knowledgeable and equipped to prevent malaria and care for malaria patients**

- No information for this Situation Report

## **Outcome objective 4: Health facilities equipped to respond to disease outbreaks.**

UNICEF response focuses on community level assessments and prevention as follows:

- **Cholera**: No new cases of cholera have been reported recently. The last case was on the 23 March 2003. Active case finding and surveillance is still continuing in Beitbridge, including community health and hygiene education.
- **Humanitarian crisis**: UNICEF joined a UN mission to Matabeleland South province to assess the humanitarian crisis following the declaration of a 'state of disaster' in the province by the Government in February 2003. The mission established that the province is definitely in a state of disaster in as far as water

supply for both humans and livestock is concerned. Beitbridge, Gwanda, Matobo and parts of Bulilima and Mangwe districts are most severely affected requiring immediate intervention. About 75 per cent of the population in the province is highly vulnerable due to water shortage.

### **Findings:**

The mission noted with concern the general sharp decline in water availability for both humans and livestock throughout the province. In particular:

- A substantial number of dams have dried up and the majority of the remainder will dry up well before the next rain season. - A substantial percentage (21 per cent) of borehole and deep well hand pumps in the province are not functioning due to either poor maintenance systems or lack of spare parts or both.
- Generally, the water table is receding.
- A significant number of piped water schemes are not functioning either due engine breakdowns, burst pipes, lack of water or poor maintenance.
- Communities in most districts are travelling long distances. Communities use unprotected water sources for domestic use, shared with livestock, predisposing them to gastro-intestinal diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea and dysentery. At the time of the mission there was an outbreak of cholera in Beitbridge district where a total of 52 cases and four deaths have been reported since 25 February 2003.
- Poor sanitation coverage: 35 per cent in communal lands and less than 1 per cent in new resettlement areas. Also, a critical shortage of water supply has increased the vulnerability of the population to epidemic diseases

### Major recommendations:

- Current interventions in Beitbridge should be accelerated and scaled up to cover more communities.
- The UNCT should mobilise resources to support the acceleration of water supply and sanitation interventions in Beitbridge and for immediate interventions in Gwanda, Matobo, Bulilima and Mangwe districts.
- There is need for the UN Country Team (UNCT) to respond to the humanitarian situation in the province to achieve holistic impact, as the problems identified are all interrelated.

Water and sanitation: A joint UNICEF and National Action Committee (NAC) team visited Chipinge and Chiredzi districts in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces respectively, to make a rapid assessment of emergency water and sanitation needs of the districts.

### **Findings:**

- In Chipinge district, approximately 67 per cent (627) of water points

were said to be operational by December 2002 out of a total of 931 water sources in the district.

- Schools latrines collapsed during the floods and had not been replaced (the number of schools affected could not be established).
- Most of the water points that are not functioning are due to poor maintenance and lack of spares. In some instances communities are forced to remove parts from one borehole to repair another.
- In Chiredzi district, 150 water points are not functioning. Most of these breakdowns are a result of poor maintenance and lack of spares. In Chikombedzi area, some water points have components removed.
- UNICEF plans to support water point rehabilitation and construction of school and household latrines in both districts to mitigate against the outbreak of water and sanitation related diseases and improve the health of the children.

### **Outcome Objective 5: All children under 15 de-wormed.**

- Zimbabwe does not have a policy of general de-worming as there is no evidence of worms being a public health problem.

### **Outcome objective 6: No reduction in attendance rate in primary schools (especially girls).**

- The Education Working Group made a field visit to satellite schools in Mash East and Masvingo from 25-27 March. A total of ten schools were covered: four in Mash East and six in Masvingo. The group comprised representatives from UNICEF, the Ministry of Education, Farm Community Trust, Save the Children Norway.
- The schools have no basic water and sanitation facilities. They get water from rivers and streams. There are no health facilities in the schools visited. At most, each school has three squat holes for girls and three for boys even when the enrolment is over 200. Cyclone Japhet damaged some of the makeshift structures. Only two schools were found operating from the old farm houses.
- The students have no desks, benches and chairs. They use makeshift metal pieces and benches. Some students walk for ten kilometres to school and some girls have dropped out as a result, or they are using temporary lodgings during the week. Their safety is compromised since they are not adequately supervised. The schools have no textbooks and in most cases it is only the teacher's copy that is available. UNICEF is providing 'school in a box' kits to the Satellite Schools. A textbook consultant is being hired so that books can be supplied to the satellite schools.

### **Outcome objective 7: Children, young people and all community members equipped with knowledge and life skills (including communication skills) to negotiate positive social change, so they can protect themselves against HIV/AIDS.**

- The Ministry of Education Sports and Culture Secretariat and the Regional HIV/AIDS Coordinators started training workshops for school heads, teachers and head office personnel on HIV/AIDS Life Skills Education and Psycho-social support. These workshops are ongoing and will continue for the remainder of the

year. The Secretariat and Provincial Coordinators are experiencing transport problems since they get their fuel supplies through a company named CMED. CMED is currently unable to supply the fuel when they need it for plant activities. On the other hand, the Ministry of Education cannot advance these officers money to purchase fuel from service stations where it is also in short supply. It is hoped that negotiations will be made between UNICEF and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry to iron out the logistical problems.

- The Ministry has recruited a driver/messenger and a secretary for the Secretariat. The post of National Coordinator is soon to be filled. The filling of these posts is enhancing the operational efficiency of the Secretariat.

### **Outcome objective 8: Vulnerable groups of children and young people identified and accessing services**

- Orphans and other vulnerable children (OVCs) in Bulilimangwe, Mount Darwin and Gokwe North and Buhera districts benefited from the project on 'Improving Livelihoods of Orphans and vulnerable children' through provision of water and sanitation and hygiene education.
- Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC):  
On 20 March, the Child Protection Working Group was held with 25 representatives from five government line ministries, representatives from the City of Harare and from NGOs. The meeting discussed preparatory work leading to the first national OVC stakeholders meeting in June, as well as issues related to child abuse, street children, partnerships and coordination structures around OVC.

Action points decided were:

1. Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare, City of Harare, Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children (ZNCWC), UNICEF and the NGO NODED meet to discuss the way forward with regard to the issue of the coordination of OVC at all levels. It was decided to organize a national meeting on 2 May, between line ministries, local authorities and NGOs. The meeting will discuss how to coordinate the activities of Child Welfare fora and NGO's related to OVC. The meeting will be organized by Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and UNICEF.

2. On 3 April, a half-day workshop is being organized by ZNCWC on Street Children and how to coordinate initiatives. Plans are underway to establish a National Network and a Harare Taskforce to coordinate activities/projects.

3. UNICEF to develop a matrix for updating the directory on NGOs working in the field of child protection.

- Zero Tolerance Campaign:

At the same meeting, UNICEF explained the strategy of UNICEF behind the Zero Tolerance Campaign on Child Abuse:

### **Capacity-building of institutions and communities**

- Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs
- Ministry of Home Affairs

- Ministry of Education Sports and Culture
- Community Capacity Development (CCD)
- Child President
- Monitoring & Evaluation

Meetings have been held with the Ministry of Justice to plan the training of judges, prosecutors and child mediators, and with the Ministry of Home Affairs for training police. All training will end by 16 June, the Day of the African Child.

NGO agreements are being prepared for the CCD component of the child abuse campaign and for support to the Child President's involvement in the campaign.

### **OVC Steering Committee (OVC SC)**

- UNICEF, as secretariat to the Steering Committee, had prepared a workplan for the overall work to be done in 2003-5 to meet the United Nations Special Session on HIV/AIDS. This workplan was endorsed by the Steering committee. A workshop is being organised on 8 April to discuss the practical details with all Steering Committee members for the organization of the first National OVC Stakeholders Meeting, to be held from 10-13 June.
- **Field visit:** The Child Protection Programme Officer conducted a field visit to Chiweshe in order to identify NGO implementing partners for community based OVC care and support programmes. UNICEF will support a project which is, in short, enhancing the skills of the community representatives to grow their own drought resistant crops, to provide a large nutritional basis for the orphans. Funds from nutrition gardens will provide school fees.

### **Outcome objective 9: Enhanced sexual and reproductive health services including access to prevention and treatment.**

- Provision of drugs for syndromic treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections is done through the Government with previous European Union support.
- For Parent and Mother to child transmission (MTCT), UNICEF is supporting operational research on monitoring large-scale use of nevirapine and is developing the capacity of selected institutions for training on counselling and infant feeding. UNICEF is supporting five Youth Friendly centres and one Youth Council in Buhera.

### **Outcome objective 10: People Living with HIV/AIDS accessing care and treatment**

- Currently UNICEF not providing drugs for opportunistic infections because of lack of funds. However, WHO through DFID support has taken on this task.
- Capacity for 'de-stigmatization and positive living' is done through the Human Rights Approach to Programming and the Community Capacity Development process (HRAP/CCD) process that has now been expanded to the 16 Convergence Districts for UNICEF impact.

## **HUMANITARIAN SITUATION**

- Government of Zimbabwe Appeal. Organisation of 'Round Table Meeting'. The Government of Zimbabwe, in conjunction with the donor community in the country, has started to prepare a second humanitarian crisis Appeal for 2003/04 (the Government Appeal). The process is expected to produce a Government Draft Paper to be submitted for discussion to a 'Round Table Working Group' on 16 April 2003.
- The first planning meeting to discuss the objectives of the Round Table, the role of the working Group and the participants at the Round Table, was held on 28 March at United Nations Development Programme. Twenty participants drawn from various government departments, UN agencies, including UNICEF, attended.
- Three sub-committees were formed, namely:
  1. Agriculture/Food Security
  2. Social Services
  3. Policy Constraints and Review.
- UNICEF has been invited to participate in the Social services sub-group, which met for the first time under the Chair of the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. The Terms of Reference of this sub-committee include the following tasks:
  1. Overview of the problems affecting public health, including water and sanitation, nutrition and HIV/AIDS.
  2. Overview of the problems affecting education sector.
  3. The situation of urban and rural vulnerable populations.
- It was decided that UNICEF would be represented on all the three groups to provide technical expertise and guidance. Essentially, the group would discuss the current situation prevailing with regard to the sectors mentioned, what humanitarian support is currently being provided by different actors to those sectors and what the gap is to guide the government in preparing an appeal.

## **ADVOCACY AND MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

- A series of fortnightly field visits by freelance journalists to collect material for feature and human interest stories has begun. These visits will produce a minimum of 6 stories per trip, to be offered to the national press. (The major newspapers have promised space in their output for such features.) These visits will become a regular activity.
- UNICEF and ZBC have agreed a series of TV co-productions on UNICEF/Children's issues, to be broadcast July-December. These will be: 26 x 30-minute talk shows; 2 x 30-minute documentaries; 4 x 30-minute Drama series; 13 x 5 minutes Public Service Announcements.
- Discussions are underway with a number of music groups and a leading producer for a collaborative CD on children's issues.

## **OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- Therapeutic Milk deliveries were made to six facilities in Manicaland province and in total 311.6kg of F75 and 3173.76 kg of F100 were delivered.
- One of the cement companies, Circle Cement Limited that had temporarily ceased production issued a statement in the press to say they were resuming production but would not be taking any new orders for the next two months.

## **FUNDING AND RELATIONS WITH DONORS**

- The Country Office has continued to organise bilateral meetings with donors based in Harare and this week, met with the First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan on the Japanese funding for HIV/AIDS activities.