UNICEF Situation Report (Zimbabwe)
Date: 15 February 2013

Reporting period (1-15 February 2013)

**Highlights**

**Flooding – the aftermath, 11,000 affected and infrastructure damaged**
Heavy rains in mid-January resulted in flash floods throughout the country causing loss of life and damage to livelihoods and infrastructure. An estimated 11,000 men, women and children were affected, of which over 8,000 were in need of humanitarian assistance (mainly shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene non-food items and Food). After the initial response to those affected, no major urgent humanitarian response gaps are anticipated. However, considerable damage remains to infrastructure (houses, schools, sanitation facilities, boreholes, roads, bridges) and will require long-term sustainable intervention. The damage to crops and livestock is yet to be fully assessed.

**Food assistance continues to address critical food shortages**
The first quarter of the year is traditionally the peak hunger season in Zimbabwe and the Seasonal Targeted Assistance (STA) programme is currently the main response by humanitarian partners. The STA increased coverage to more than 1.4 million people in 38 districts in January 2013 from 1.2 million people in 35 districts in December 2012. The number of people being assisted is expected to increase to 1.6 million in the 38 districts during the period up to March 2013. Data collection for the second phase of the nutrition rapid assessment is complete and it is anticipated that results will inform of any impacts of critical food shortages on nutrition status.

**High Rates of Diarrhoea and Typhoid Persist**
Epidemiological reports show an increase in rates of Diarrhoea and Typhoid. Given the recent high rainfall pattern and flooding, partners are on high alert for preparedness with respect to diarrhoea as well as Malaria outbreaks in various districts.

**Humanitarian Needs**

In the aftermath of unexpectedly high levels of rainfall in the country, the major effects that have been observed remain in damage to infrastructure such as school and clinic building, roads, bridges being washed away, cutting off communities from their day-to-day access to social and economic activities. Food shortages are still prevalent as projected by the Zimbabwe vulnerability assessment in 2012. High rates of Diarrhoea as well as Typhoid are being observed in the population and there is a risk of Malaria outbreaks particularly within districts affected by floods.

1. **The Aftermath of Flooding**

High levels of rainfall in the country in mid-January resulted in flash floods throughout many districts causing loss of life and damage to livelihoods and infrastructure. An estimated 11,000 men, women and children were affected, of which over 8,000 were in need of humanitarian assistance. Currently there are no major urgent humanitarian response gaps. Considerable damage remains to infrastructure such as houses, schools, boreholes, roads and bridges. Timely response and coordination by the Department of Civil Protection (DCP) facilitated rapid assessments with various partners, cash disbursements (US$100 to some affected households), liaison for use of helicopters for rescue of marooned persons. In consultation with the DCP, partners from United Nations, Non-governmental organisations and Red Cross distributed non-food items, shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) kits. Food...
distribution was conducted through the WFP’s regular food programming or seasonal targeted assistance (STA) although some extra food was distributed in some areas such as in Beitbridge district.

The Health cluster is supporting the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare in post flood assessments and preparedness measures, in particular given recent outbreaks of Malaria in Manicaland and Mashonaland province and the general increase in Malaria and Diarrhoea cases compared to the same period in 2012.

Coordination: All response efforts have been taking place under the leadership and in close collaboration with the DCP, including at provincial and district level. On the 22nd of January, OCHA convened an emergency meeting with the four remaining clusters and relevant international and national NGOs to coordinate assessment and response efforts and provide an update on emergency stocks. Follow up to the response was conducted through regular inter-cluster forum.

Challenges: The overall response by individual organisations was commendable although it was challenging to identify response gaps due to lack of standardization of information (assessments/response). A similar information management gap has been noted within the DCP (regarding information from the districts and provinces transmitted to Harare). Additionally some organizations currently report partial depletion of emergency stocks in country.

Preparedness for the remaining rain season: While water levels have subsided, a high level of alert has been called for as February usually forms the peak of the rainy season and the Meteorological Department has warned of heavy rains in Northern and Eastern Zimbabwe. There is risk of water backflow in Zambezi tributary rivers and in addition, the Kariba dam flood gates are expected to be opened at the end of February according to the Zambezi River Authority. UN, NGOs and Red Cross are working with the DCP in terms of improving early warning, standardized assessments and response during the rest of the season. Partners are in the process of establishing resident Flood Field Teams in nine flood prone districts (and Harare back-up teams deployable within 48hrs) equipped with draft terms of references and standard rapid assessment forms. Partners are also updating emergency stock lists.

2. **FOOD ASSISTANCE CONTINUES TO ADDRESS CRITICAL FOOD SHORTAGES**

The first quarter of the year is traditionally the peak hunger season in Zimbabwe. The Seasonal Targeted Assistance (STA) programme, which is the main response by humanitarian partners, increased coverage to more than 1.4 million people in 38 districts in January 2013 from 1.2 million people in 35 districts in December 2012. The number of people being assisted is expected to increase to 1.6 million in the 38 districts during the period up to March 2013. The Programme is being implemented in part with cereals from the Government’s strategic grain reserve in 29 of the 37 districts. GoZ has provided 35,000 metric tonnes of cereals to WFP. Assistance from WFP was also being rendered through safety net and health and nutrition programmes in 21 districts and the two Metropolitan provinces of Harare and Bulawayo. Close to 200,000 people are assisted including people living with HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis. WFP also provides assistance for returnees from Botswana and South Africa in partnership with IOM at the two border posts. Following heavy rainfall in most parts of Zimbabwe and flash floods in some of WFP’s areas of operation, the condition
of the roads deteriorated and accessibility to some of the targeted people has been seriously compromised with delivery trucks carrying humanitarian assistance getting stuck in the mud in areas such as Centenary, Guruve, Beitbridge, Chipinge and Chiredzi districts. This has limited turnaround time and resulted in longer routes to reach people.

**Rapid Nutrition Survey:** The Ministry of Health and Child Welfare (MOHCW) in collaboration with the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC), UN agencies and NGOs, organised for data collection on the rapid nutrition survey from the 11th to the 15th of February. The first assessment was conducted in November 2012 to establish a baseline. The repeat survey was conducted in ten of the most food insecure livelihood zones in order to assess and analyse the impact of drought on nutritional outcome. Data analysis will be complete by end of February.

**Nutrition Coordination:** The Nutrition cluster was deactivated as of December 2012. However, nutrition sector coordination remains a priority and activities continue, supported by UNICEF and FNC. The first coordination meeting was conducted on the 1st of February. Nutrition sector coordination is also recognized as a priority action as per food and nutrition security policy and its implementation matrix, which was further refined and finalized in January 2013, by FNC and its Technical Advisory Group (TAG), that comprises key ministries, FNC, UN and NGOs. Furthermore, FNC has embarked on its multi-sector coordination role and support to the Office of the President and Cabinet on food and nutrition issues through the high level food and nutrition security task force comprising ministers and permanent secretaries that meets weekly, as well as decentralized structures through district and provincial Food and Nutrition Security Committees.

3. **HIGH RATES OF DIARRHOEA AND TYPHOID PERSIST**

The national epidemiological update produced by the Ministry of health and Child and Child Welfare reports that as of the 3rd of February 2013 (Week 5), the cumulative figure for diarrhoea in 2013 was 48,630 and 32 deaths (Case Fatality Rate 0.07) with the total diarrhoea cases reported during the week being 11,507 cases and 6 deaths. Additionally from October 2011 to the end of the year 2012, a total of 5,829 cases and 6 deaths were reported from Typhoid. Ten new typhoid cases were reported in the week (excluding Harare Data). The cases were reported from Sanyati District in Mashonaland West Province and Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals. The cumulative figure for typhoid by week 5 this year was 660 cases and 0 deaths. Chitungwiza and Harare cities were the most affected pointing to the chronically poor situation of urban water, sanitation and hygiene service provision. Interventions from health and WASH partners are continuing with support largely being availed to the local municipality. Given the recent high rainfall pattern and flooding, partners are on high alert for preparedness with respect to diarrhoea as well as Malaria outbreaks.

**Inter-Agency Collaboration, Coordination, Cluster Leadership and Key Partnerships**
**The WASH Cluster:** As per the recommendation of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), the WASH cluster continues to function in 2013. The WASH cluster’s Environmental Health Alliance (EHA) framework of pre-identified WASH and health cluster partners has been maintained for emergency preparedness and response capacity.

**UNICEF Response**

**Response to Women and Children Affected by Flooding**

UNICEF has three partners with PCAs for Assessment, Monitoring, Reporting and Response to Emergencies affecting school going age children form the Emergency Education Response and Preparedness Joint Network (EERPJN). The three partners namely; Plan, Save the Children and World Vision International include a network of other local partners within the provinces and districts. The EERPJN partners are currently engaged in assessments together with Ministry of Education, Sports, Arts and Culture and the DCP to determine impacts of recent weather events on school children. Preliminary results from Plan International in Manicaland Province show that within 16 schools assessed in Manicaland Province, about 1,007 students (on average 29% of the enrolment) were cut-off from school due to heavy rainfall. Schools experienced extensive infrastructure damage with repairs estimated to be between US$2,000 and US$15,000. EERPJN partners are working on developing interventions that address these immediate needs and link to recovery and sustainable development within the education sector. In the reporting period, an additional 25 school in a box kits were distributed to affected schools by World Vision International. UNICEF has been working with the ECHO funded Environmental Health Alliance (EHA) partners on rapid assessment and initial response to WASH related needs for flood affected women and children. UNICEF in collaboration with IOM provided shelter and hygiene non-food items for distribution to 1,000 affected households in Gokwe, Mt Darwin, Chiredzi and Tsholotsho Districts and in Beitbridge district (with German Agro Action), Gokwe North (with Oxfam).

**UNICEF Zimbabwe Funding Requirements**

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<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
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<td>Health and nutrition</td>
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<td>Child protection</td>
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<td>WASH cluster coordination</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**Next steps**

- Participation in multi-agency preparedness planning for remaining part of rain season.
- Support to Rapid nutrition assessment data analysis.
- Date of the next Sitrep – 28th February 2013.

**For further information, please contact:**

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1 The Environmental health alliance (EHA) Programme Management Unit (PMU) – GAA (Coordination), Save the Children (Health) and Mercy Corps (WASH). INGO partners – Goal, ACF, IMC, IRC, Merlin, Oxfam, MdM, WVI and Johanitter. UN Agencies – UNICEF, IOM and WHO.
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