



# ZIMBABWE – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Most Zimbabweans have experienced improved humanitarian conditions in 2011 as socioeconomic conditions also continue to improve, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). While availability of basic food items in most areas of the country remains stable, a significant proportion of households in both urban and rural areas may continue to face challenges meeting their food needs, particularly as Zimbabwe’s national cost of living continues to be higher than the national average household income, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).
- In FY 2011, humanitarian organizations continued to carry out health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions to prevent disease outbreaks, including cholera and malaria. USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) continues to focus on WASH activities that improve access to clean water and mitigate the risk of waterborne disease, providing nearly \$5.4 million in FY 2011 for WASH activities in Zimbabwe.
- In FY 2011, USAID provided more than \$63.8 million in humanitarian assistance to Zimbabwe, including more than \$50.8 million from USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) for emergency food assistance and more than \$13 million from USAID/OFDA to support agriculture and food security, urban livelihoods, protection of vulnerable populations, and WASH activities.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		Source
Estimated Number of People in Need of Emergency Food Assistance in Peak of 2011/2012 Hunger Season	1.68 million people	U.N. Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) – July 2011
Decline in Number of People Requiring Emergency Food Assistance Compared to Peak of 2010/2011 Hunger Season	Approximately 12 percent	U.N. CAP – November 2010

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$13,023,009
USAID/FFP Assistance to Zimbabwe	\$50,805,400
<b>Total USAID Assistance to Zimbabwe</b>	<b>\$63,828,409</b>

## Context

- Following more than a decade of economic deterioration, vulnerable households continue to experience limited access to health care, education, shelter, and WASH services. However, in 2010 and 2011 to date, Zimbabwe’s economy has improved, and the number of Zimbabweans requiring emergency food assistance has continued to decrease from previous years. Despite improved circumstances, Zimbabwe remains in a vulnerable state of recovery, with a portion of the population requiring continued humanitarian support to meet basic survival needs due to localized food insecurity and disease outbreaks, limited access to currency, and displacement due to localized outbreaks of political violence.
- On October 29, 2010, U.S. Ambassador Charles A. Ray reissued a disaster declaration in Zimbabwe in response to the ongoing complex emergency. Since FY 2007, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided nearly \$729 million in humanitarian assistance to benefit vulnerable Zimbabweans.

## Agriculture and Food Security

- Food production from the April 2011 harvest was six percent higher than the previous year’s harvest and approximately 27 percent above the five-year average, according to FEWS NET. The Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) Agriculture and Food Security Monitoring System reports that cereals are available in approximately 88 percent of monitored sites across the country. Despite the generally sufficient availability of basic food items, an

estimated 10 percent of the 4 million individuals living in urban areas continue to require emergency food assistance due to a combination of low incomes, limited employment, and chronic illness, according to the 2011 urban livelihoods assessment conducted by the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee, comprised of GoZ representatives and relief agencies. The highest concentrations of individuals requiring emergency food assistance in rural areas, according to FEWS NET, are in districts with the highest staple cereal prices, including districts in Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland East, and Midlands provinces.

- In July, the GoZ announced the reinstatement of import duties on basic commodities, such as cooking oil and maize meal, which the GoZ had lifted more than two years ago to encourage imports. These duties may adversely affect the price and availability of food, especially between October and December, when many districts in drought-prone provinces are expected to have depleted their household cereal stocks from the April harvest, FEWS NET reports.
- FEWS NET reports that emergency food assistance interventions planned by relief agencies will likely respond adequately to localized food insecurity in the coming months. For example, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has imported nearly 7,000 metric tons (MT) of cereals to support safety net programs, benefiting more than 300,000 individuals through the end of the year. As in 2010, relief agencies also plan to begin general feeding programs at the traditional start of the lean season in October, according to FEWS NET.
- In FY 2011, USAID/FFP provided more than \$50.8 million for emergency food assistance to vulnerable Zimbabweans, including funding to WFP and Promoting Recovery in Zimbabwe (PRIZE) for nearly 30,000 MT of Title II emergency food assistance and for regional food procurement. In order to strengthen livelihoods and increase resiliency, particularly in drought-prone communities, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$3.5 million in FY 2011 for agriculture and food security activities that promoted crop diversification and improved farmers' access to seeds and fertilizer, benefiting at least 103,000 people. For example, with USAID/OFDA support, relief agency GOAL provided vouchers for agricultural inputs, such as seeds and tools, and training to approximately 60,000 farmers, increasing local food production in vulnerable communities.

### **Health and WASH**

- By late June 2011, the GoZ and relief agencies had contained localized cholera outbreaks that began in 2010 and malaria outbreaks that began in April 2011, according to the Health Cluster, the coordinating body for health activities in Zimbabwe. Given the limited health and WASH infrastructure in Zimbabwe, disease surveillance and monitoring remain a critical priority to help prevent further epidemics.
- With limited access to regular, clean water from municipal systems, one third of individuals in rural areas still drink from unprotected water sources, according to the U.N. In response, USAID/OFDA continues to support activities that improve access to clean water and mitigate the risk of waterborne disease, including distribution of water purification tablets and water containers, as well as rooftop rainwater harvesting projects at schools and in vulnerable households. USAID/OFDA-funded programs also promote hygiene education and work to improve sanitation, furthering reducing the risk and spread of illness and disease, including cholera. In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$5.4 million for WASH programs in Zimbabwe, targeting approximately 1.3 million people.

### **Protection**

- Due to high unemployment, urban populations—particularly youth—remain vulnerable to food insecurity and risk becoming both victims and perpetrators of organized violence. In response, USAID/OFDA contributed more than \$1 million in FY 2011 to the Joint Initiative for Urban Zimbabwe—a consortium of non-governmental organizations led by Mercy Corps—for multi-sectoral projects that strengthen and promote sustainable livelihoods, enhance protection, and improve access to food, benefitting nearly 23,000 individuals in urban and peri-urban areas. Since FY 2007, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$5.3 million in support of the Joint Initiative's efforts to increase resiliency in urban populations.
- Zimbabweans remain at risk of displacement due to political violence. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$2.5 million in FY 2011 to support protection, emergency relief, and early recovery programs—implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM)—for internally displaced persons (IDPs), at-risk individuals, and IDP host communities throughout Zimbabwe. With USAID/OFDA support, IOM is also scaling up capacity to assist and protect returnees in the event of a large-scale repatriation of Zimbabweans from Botswana or South Africa.

### **Other Humanitarian Assistance**

- To date in 2011, international donors have committed more than \$185 million in humanitarian assistance to Zimbabwe through the U.N. CAP. After the USG, the European Commission and the governments of Japan, Australia, Sweden, and the Netherlands are the largest donors to the humanitarian response in Zimbabwe in 2011.

**FY 2011 USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE**

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
Adventist Relief and Development Agency (ADRA)	WASH	Midlands Province	\$569,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Agriculture and Food Security	Mashonaland East Province	\$142,439
GOAL	Agriculture and Food Security	Affected Areas	\$1,420,714
GOAL	WASH	Mashonaland East Province	\$647,576
International Medical Corps (IMC)	WASH	Mashonaland Central Province	\$643,188
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Protection	Affected Areas	\$2,500,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	WASH	Manicaland Province	\$500,000
Medair	WASH	Midlands Province	\$1,206,694
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	Manicaland Province	\$999,251
Mercy Corps	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Affected Areas	\$1,095,732
Population Services International (PSI)	WASH	Affected Areas	\$1,098,415
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Affected Areas	\$500,000
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Affected Areas	\$1,700,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$13,023,009</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
Promoting Recovery in Zimbabwe (PRIZE)	7,590 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Matabeleland South, and Midlands Provinces	\$14,830,000
WFP	22,010 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$30,257,500
WFP	Regional Procurement of Food Commodities through the Emergency Food Security Program	Countrywide	\$5,717,900
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$50,805,400</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$63,828,409</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 29, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

## **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for response efforts in Zimbabwe can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:  
The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.  
Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).