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**OFDA**  
**Disaster**  
**Case Reports**

**Zambia Civil Strife**  
**October 1978**

**Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance**  
**Agency for International Development**  
**Washington, D.C. 20523**

ZAMBIA - Civil Strife

Data:

Date: October 1978 (FY 79)

Location: Lusaka and border areas

No. Dead: Not reported

No. Affected: 1,000 emergency cases

Damage: Influx of emergency cases depleted available medical stores and over taxed facilities, to the point that many casualties could not receive proper treatment; at least one storage depot, containing two UNHCR grinding mills and some vehicles, was destroyed

The Disaster

Rhodesian military forces carried out air strikes against guerrilla targets in Zambia. Many civilian refugees were injured, especially those in camps near the Zambia-Rhodesian border and in the Lusaka area. The refugees were already a burden to Zambia's economy; the influx of emergency medical cases (at least 1,000) as a result of Rhodesian military operations severely depleted available medical stores in Zambia. Due to continued exchange shortages, Zambia was unable to replace stocks of medicines.

Action Taken by the Government of Zambia (GOZ)

President Kaunda issued appeals for emergency assistance. The Lusaka University Training Hospital treated many of the injured.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government (USG)

On October 25, 1978, the U.S. Ambassador declared the existence of an emergency situation in order to respond to the Zambian appeal for drugs and medical supplies. The USG contributed \$50,000 through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for this purpose.....\$50,000

TOTAL            \$50,000

Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies \*

Church World Service (CWS) - issued an appeal for funds to purchase medicines for the Christian Council of Zambia

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) - contributions in cash and in kind

ZAMBIA - Civil Strife

Assistance Provided by the International Community \*

Christian Aid (UK) - cash contribution of \$5,850

German Voluntary Agencies - airlift of hospital beds

International Committee of the Red Cross - provided medicines worth \$77,650; 12 tons of tents, blankets, clothing, soap, medicaments worth \$57,750; 15,000 blankets and 400 tents purchased in Botswana valued at \$115,460

World Council of Churches - contribution of wheelchairs and crutches

TOTAL            \$256,710

\* Please note: the figure for total international assistance is an approximation. In many cases the cash value of in kind aid is unavailable.