



# Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project



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Beneficiary Barbra Manyari in her sugar beans crop field © FAO

### Improving Farmers' Yield Through FAO Training

As part of its ZIRP interventions, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in partnership with Agritex, carried out training for farmers. The goal of the training was to capacitate farmers on land management, timely land preparation, weeding, pests and disease control. Farmers were also trained on how to minimise pollution of surface and underground water systems, including proper fertiliser and chemical use.

The Chairperson of the Nyanyadzi irrigation scheme block C, Barbra Manyari, says the intervention was timely, and has brought great relief to thousands of people who lost their livelihoods and resources.

"Nyanyadzi irrigation scheme was well known for poor land utilisation, low yields and was lagging behind in

terms of field activities. I used to grow tomatoes and sprayed large amounts of pesticides to control the *Tuta absoluta* moth, as I did not know that this was a health hazard. With the introduction of the FAO farm manager approach, production has improved and information gaps have been closed. We are now following good agricultural practices", said Barbra, a widow of three children and caretaker of five additional dependents.

Through the Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) awareness screenings, farmers are now conscious of the need to protect themselves and the environment from harmful practices especially during chemical spraying to manage pests and diseases. Barbra added, "The 2020 sugar bean crop has so far proved to be the best since the 90s; I never dreamt of such a yield."

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# IOM Conducts Remote Return Assessment Surveys

With support from the World Bank under the ZIRP project, IOM has been tracking and assessing the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces affected by Cyclone Idai. This intervention aims to provide information that is complete, accurate and timely on internal displacement and other migration flows in the cyclone Idai affected districts on a regular basis.

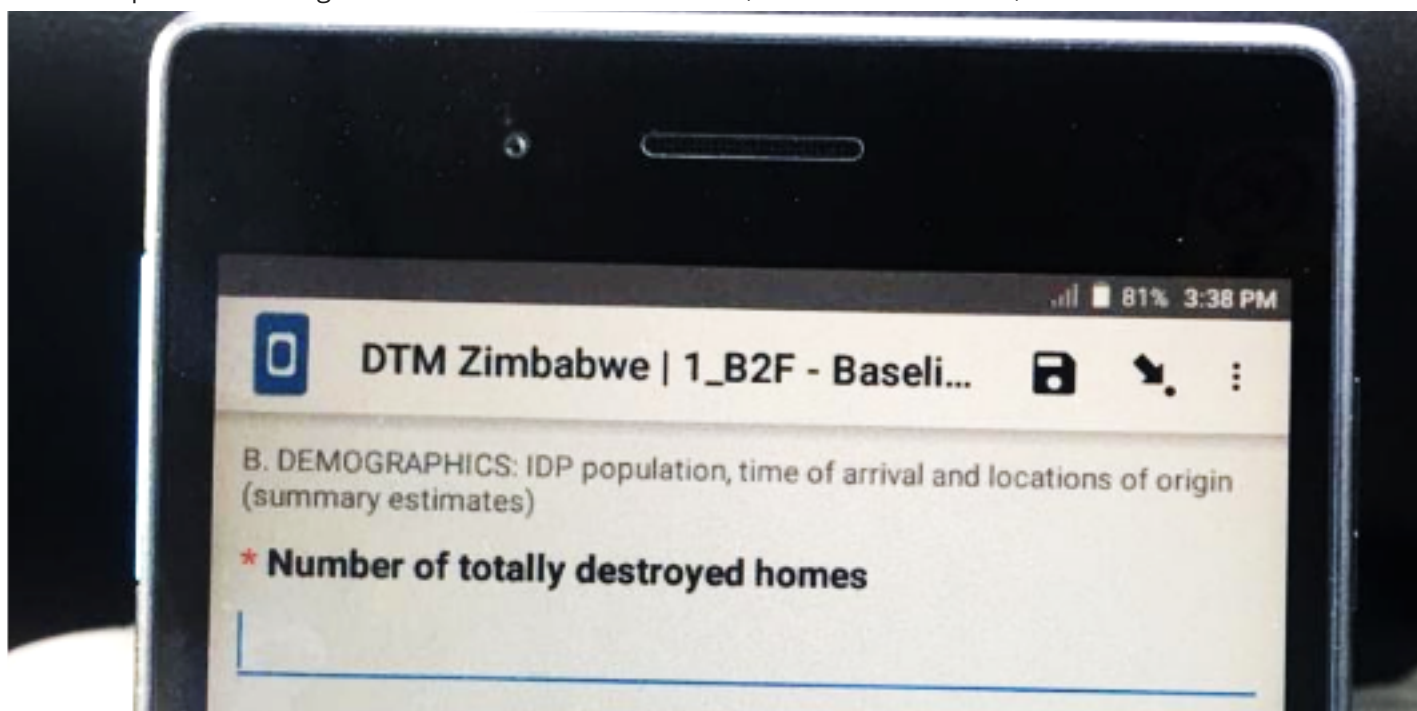
The focus to date has been to determine the overall situation of IDPs at village level and identify the demographics, vulnerabilities and socio-economic profile of the displaced populations, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on their vulnerabilities, the health risk exposure and the possibility of recovery.

The implementation of the Displacement Tracking matrix, or DTM, in affected areas has provided key data and information at the operational level to facilitate a more targeted approach, and inform the humanitarian activity to adjust programmatic activities and increase Accountability to Affected Population (AAP). Additionally, at the strategic level DTM facilitates evidence-based programming of the humanitarian response to Cyclone Idai in Zimbabwe. Finally, in the longer term, baseline sets of data and information gathered via DTM will enable IOM to develop future transition and recovery programming to increase the humanitarian development nexus and provide sustainable long term recovery solutions.

Due to COVID-19 movement restrictions, return assessment surveys were done remotely via telephone interviews with IOM trained data collection staff, selected with the assistance of the local authorities, and District Administrators at village level, who have engaged key informants. Assessments targeted the 205 villages that have the highest number of internally displaced persons in Chipinge, Chimanimani and Buhera identified through the Baseline assessment carried out in December 2019. The assessments provided snapshots of the situation before and after cyclone Idai.

To ensure ownership, local authorities were engaged to facilitate and participate in the data collection process which included focus groups. Key informants were agreed upon with each district before surveys commenced and included local leadership: village heads, councillors, chiefs, headmen, village health workers, community childcare workers, village secretaries and representatives of various vulnerable groups.

A COVID-19 pandemic baseline assessment was embedded in the return assessments to understand the mobility patterns of persons in villages selected for return in 41 wards, within three districts, since the outbreak of COVID-19.





## UNOPS hosts virtual career fair

In pursuit of the best local talent to support the World Bank funded ZIRP, UNOPS hosted a virtual career fair on 30 June. Roughly 50 participants tuned into the webinar in search of employment opportunities.

The Human Resources team based at the UNOPS Kenya multi-country office facilitated the session with colleagues in Zimbabwe. UNOPS Country Manager, Djibrilla Mazin addressed participants with a broad overview of UNOPS operations and its focus on recruiting the best talent for the job, particularly female candidates which is a key tenet of UNOPS' talent management strategy. UNOPS aims to increase the number of female personnel across all levels of responsibility and job profiles to ensure gender equality is achieved in its offices and operations across the globe.

Gamuchirayi Mandangu-Bakasa, Social Officer, presented UNOPS strategic ambitions and management goals which guide the work of UNOPS internationally as well as specificities of the Zimbabwe operations. Human Resources Manager, Hina Tabassum, and HR Assistant, Victoria Nyamai explained the various types of opportunities and contractual arrangements offered by UNOPS. They detailed the typical recruitment processes and guided participants through the Global Personnel Recruitment System which is the starting point for United Nations online job applications. They dissected a typical vacancy announcement to show participants how to prepare a winning application, prepare for a written assessment and the interview.

Tanyaradzwa Gumbo, Associate Engineer, shared her personal experience of working with UNOPS for the past six months. As a female engineer, a rarity in the profession, Tanyaradzwa underscored the opportunities available to her to add value to the lives of communities where UNOPS is working, particularly in the cyclone Idai affected districts of Chipinge and Chimanimani.

UNOPS continues to recruit professionals for a range of positions in its Harare, Chipinge, Chimanimani and Mutare offices which support recovery operations in Manicaland province. Vacancies range from engineers, project managers, procurement officers, drivers and support staff. For more info, follow us at @ZIRP\_Zimbabwe.

## Village health workers ride to work



Forty village health workers participated in an intensive three-week pre-service and COVID-19 themed training in Chimanimani District hosted by UNICEF in May 2020. A total of 283 village health workers have been trained to date out of 400 targeted for capacity-building sessions under the ZIRP. Village health workers play an essential role in the primary healthcare system in Zimbabwe.

In order to facilitate greater mobility throughout the districts under their responsibility, village health workers were equipped with bicycles thanks to funding from the World Bank. This support contributed to increasing the number of villages in rural districts of Manicaland with improved access to marginalised areas and health facilities.

Bicycles provide a low-cost and sustainable mode of transport that allows them to travel up to 20 km a day to reach remote rural families. Village health workers are vital in that they deliver health services to the communities by conducting health promotion services ranging from maternal, neonatal and child health, nutrition, WASH related information and management of common childhood illnesses. In the current COVID-19 context, their role has expanded beyond engaging communities in prevention of COVID-19 to include detection and response – contributing to containing the outbreak. Since the beginning of the year, 283 have been trained under ZIRP.

## WFP supporting the Matiashe community



The communities of Manicaland, under the guidance of the World Food Programme (WFP), have rehabilitated several community assets as part of WFP's Food For Assets programme. One of the assets, Matiashe garden, was established with the community members who worked on the garden being paid USD 45 dollars per month for a period of six months.

Through this project WFP managed to address immediate food gaps, while also making sure that long term food needs are addressed in a systematic way. Supporting these communities means building their resilience to future climate shocks, so they can withstand them and uphold their own food security. For Sekai (pictured) and many of her community members it means they now have fresh, nutritious vegetables and surplus to sell.

Sekai, aged 46, one of the beneficiaries of the WFP programme, confided if it had not been for the Matiashe garden, life would have been much worse. "I have six kids and they look up to me as their mother. You know hunger wears the face of a woman; when hunger strikes, it hits us more than anyone else. This garden means a lot to me, as well as this community, especially in these times when we are under lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been helpful to provide what we need." She added, "Last month I harvested 20kgs of beans. I sold part of it and got money to buy soap and other things for my family. I will use some to feed my family and keep the remainder for seed."

## ZIRP Supports Risk Assessment in Manicaland

As part of its overall support to revitalizing healthcare in Cyclone Idai affected communities, the ZIRP/World Health Organization (WHO) participated in training at the national level of healthcare teams on COVID-19 Risk assessment. Having benefited from this training, provincial and community healthcare professionals were able to share their knowledge with their colleagues serving in the seven ZIRP supported mission hospitals in Manicaland province, namely in Chimanimani and Chipinge.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, ZIRP/WHO staff supported the training of district teams to conduct the risk assessment exercise in Manicaland. As part of the exercise, ZIRP teams supported the conduct of active case search in community health facilities looking for diagnosis and/or symptoms relating to influenza like illness (ILI) and Severe and Moderate Acute Respiratory illness (SARI/MARI) reported within hospital records and among staff. As part of the training, ZIRP teams also sensitized community healthcare workers and community members on a range of common preexisting health conditions, including the detection of COVID-19 in the disaster-affected areas.