



Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project



ZIRP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER (JAN - MAR 2020)



Cyclone Idai... One Year On

In March 2019, Cyclone Idai destroyed approximately 50,000 households and displaced over 60,000 people in the country, causing as much as \$622 million worth of damage. The World Bank has financed a major multi-sectoral recovery project, managed by UNOPS and implemented through United Nations technical leads: FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and IOM. One year after the cyclone hit Zimbabwe, we reflect on the strides made to date under the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP).

“We recall with sadness the devastation that befell the affected communities and reflect on how the world was moved to assist. There is still a lot to be done through the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project. The community that the Project has reached have demonstrated incredible resilience in the face of loss and come together to work towards the recovery effort. We are grateful to the different agencies and authorities with

whom we work to implement this multi-sectoral project. Together we have developed a unified response to help communities build back better and restore livelihoods.” - Mukami Kariuki, World Bank Country Manager for Zimbabwe.

“It is a painful memory for those who lost loved ones, their homes and their livelihoods to Cyclone Idai. The journey to recovery has been long and there is still much to be done. This multi-agency, multisectoral approach to disaster recovery, through ZIRP, is complex.

However, we believe it is the best approach possible as we aim not simply to restore what was lost but to build back better, smarter and stronger so that communities are more resilient to future hazards.” - Djibrilla Mazin, UNOPS Zimbabwe Country Manager.

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World Bank Visits Project Sites

In early January, a World Bank Team conducted a supervision visit to the project areas in Mutare and Chipinge from 27 to 29 January 2020. UNOPS Country Manager, Djibrilla Mazin, accompanied the four-member World Bank delegation to disaster-affected areas for a first-hand view of project sites. The Bank Team, comprised of personnel in Disaster Management, Social Protection, Communication and Water and Sanitation, met with different communities to receive feedback and assess project implementation.

During the trip, the delegation visited project sites in Ward 12 in Mutare, where FAO previously distributed crop inputs including sorghum seed, cowpeas seed and fertilizers. Farmers were proud to showcase their healthy crop stands as a tangible result of the intervention combined with their hard work.

The team also visited Chipinge, Ward 20, where they met with community members who refurbished a badly damaged dip tank as part of WFP's food assistance for assets programme. WFP implementing partner, GOAL led the tour explaining the community engagement process, challenges encountered and preliminary results while community members shared their experiences and expectations. The dip tank is part of a wider

community project including a solar-powered borehole, a nursery for animal fodder and short crops for community consumption and income generation.

The delegation also saw village health workers in action during a UNICEF training session in Mwacheta. This training is crucial in preparing community-based health workers to provide basic healthcare in remote areas of the disaster-affected regions. From the visit the team provided recommendations for future programming. The Bank conducts regular monitoring and support for ZIRP.

IWD Business Workshop

In celebration of International Women's Day (IWD), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) hosted a Women in Business Workshop on Friday 6 March in Harare.

The seminar gave participants a unique opportunity to learn how to do business with UNOPS and join the pool of service providers who are lending support to the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP). In attendance were representatives of the Women Engineers Association, the Women Lawyers' Association, PROWEB, Chartered Professionals and a broad spectrum of female entrepreneurs who filled the 100-seater room to capacity.

"At UNOPS we put gender equality at the centre of our work. We work hard to not just improve the lives of women and girls around the world through our projects, but also to challenge stereotypes and broaden perceptions. We know through our focus at UNOPS that the infrastructure around us is often gender blind. Built without considering the needs of women. The infrastructure around them simply lets them down. It's built with the needs of able-bodied men in mind." - **Grete Faremo, UNOPS' Under Secretary-General and Executive Director**

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FAO... Cultivating Dreams of a Better Future

Dingane and Nancy Sithole are an elderly couple, aged 95 and 78 respectively. While they are advanced in age, their life's work, seen in the lush green maize in their field, is a testimony of how the two have defied old age to focus on agricultural production. The couple, who live in Chipinge, in eastern Zimbabwe, were severely impacted by Cyclone Idai. They are working hard to shrug off the 'victim' tag and are charting a way for a better future.



"The time the cyclone hit was the most devastating moment in my life," says Nancy. "We were caught unawares, and this was worsened by the fact that the rains pounded without ceasing during the night. Houses were flooded, some walls gave in while roofs were blown off. It was very terrifying."

Nancy says they woke up to see their house destroyed. This is where they had stored their harvest from the previous season and had anticipated to pull through to the next harvest without difficulty.

"I looked at my field and it was so distressing to note that the promising crop had been destroyed. The runoff had levelled the field and uprooted some of the crops. Imagine, we had a good crop, then suddenly we had an empty field greeting us the following morning," she adds. "There was a swift response as different organisations started assisting us. I have to be honest with you, I had never received food or clothing handouts in my life. I am glad that I was selected as one of the beneficiaries under this project. I was not sure how I would have managed to plant for the current season as I was struggling to feed my grandchildren and would not have managed to buy seed and fertiliser," adds Nancy.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is focused on restoring crop and livestock production as well as rehabilitating communal irrigation schemes to support agrarian livelihoods. The farmers were given a package of maize and cowpea seed as well as fertiliser under ZIRP.

"I am sure that this is a turning point for me. I am sure, I will not be found receiving food aid again as my harvest will carry me through to the next season. I hope I will be able to sell some of the crops and buy cement to reconstruct my house which was destroyed by the cyclone," declares Nancy.

FAO interventions have also touched on providing survival feed for smallholder farmers in the drier parts which were affected by the cyclone. It is paradoxical that while the cyclone was characterised by heavy rains which flooded large areas of farmland, some of the smallholder farmers experienced drought and were left without pastures. A total of 1,882 tonnes of agricultural inputs such as maize seed, cowpea seed and basal fertilizer, were distributed by FAO, benefiting a total of 6,400 people. FAO also distributed 805 tonnes of stock feed for more than 2,981 breeding cattle to 1,073 households.

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IOM Intention Survey - Revealing IDPs Challenges for Recovery

A Return Intention Survey was conducted among Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in February 2020. The four IDP camps of Manicaland province (Arboretum, Nyamapanda, Garikai and Kopa) were targeted. Preliminary findings revealed that access to livelihoods remains a key issue for the population surveyed. Equally important are assistance for reconstruction and cost of transport for a new place of settlement.

Some of the IDPs residing in the camps indicated that they identified areas of their own for relocation among the hosts and adjacent wards. None indicated the desire to go back to their place of origin.



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From Rescue to Recovery with WFP



When climatic shocks such as Cyclone Idai hit, women and young girls are disproportionately affected. Thirty-year old Lindsay Zuvarimwe, went into labour while her community was facing one of the worst climatic disasters in history. “Mine was a difficult story. I felt as if I was fighting two battles at once as I gave birth during the cyclone. It was faith that saw me through this and I decided to name my daughter Faith,” she recalled the night she will never forget. “Our livelihoods were supported by the Zimunda weir and when it was destroyed we thought it was the end for us,” Lindsay said.

Together with her community, Lindsay rebuilt the weir. The weir supplies water to their irrigation scheme. In the garden they grow vegetables and maize. “Who would ever think that we would resume our gardening? We grow vegetables to feed our families, and if we have surplus we can sell it,” she said.

The World Food Program (WFP) responded during the Cyclone Idai emergency and gave 50,000 people life-saving food assistance. Under the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP), WFP and partners have provided 180,000 people with food or cash in Chimanimani and Chipinge - the worst affected districts of Zimbabwe.

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Environmental and Social Standards Training

The Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP) is being implemented under the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). To achieve ESF consistency for ZIRP, UNOPS has conducted eight training sessions on ESF requirements for technical agencies, who in turn train their implementing partners, who interact directly with beneficiaries. The purpose of the induction was to ensure that whenever planning, design and implementation of activities takes place there is a conscious exercise to identify and manage any possible negative outcomes.

The ESF sets out the World Bank's commitment to sustainable development, through a set of Environmental and Social Standards designed to support Borrowers' projects, with the aim of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity. As a result of the training, we expect sound relations between implementing partners and community workers, optimal occupational safety and health and finally effective resolution of grievances.

UNOPS... Empowering Women in a Post-Disaster Environment

Women are disproportionately affected by environmental disasters such as cyclones, often bearing the brunt of casualties and lost livelihoods. Despite this disparity, post-disaster recovery efforts often focus on rebuilding society, sometimes recreating the inequalities that made women vulnerable in the first place. UNOPS is working to empower women affected by Cyclone Idai and reduce the inequalities that made them vulnerable to the disaster. The empowerment of women in cyclone-affected areas does not only build their resilience to future crises and disasters, but it will also boost the incomes of the families they support.

One of the measures UNOPS is taking to support women entails their recruitment to work on rehabilitation projects, in which communities are working directly with UNOPS to rebuild damaged roads and bridges. Four projects are currently underway, at Nyunga Road and Gumira Road in Chipinge and at Nyamusundu Road and Ruwedza Road in Chimanimani. Each of these projects employs 25 people, with the numbers set to rise as the work increases. Women make up at least 45% of the workforce in these projects, and even more in some locations. Currently the workers are in the process of doing vital preparatory work to reconstruct four severely damaged roads. After the completion of the work, a total of 11,800 people will benefit from the works, including 300 community workers.

Beyond the employment of women in ongoing projects, UNOPS is keen to place women in leadership roles. Every UNOPS project employs a male and female supervisor and charges them with the management of the work area and team. With half of the workers being women, the selection of a female supervisor ensures that the women feel comfortable approaching someone with sensitive issues and concerns. This is vital for the protection of women in the workspace and to ensure that there are no incidences of gender-based violence or sexual exploitation and abuse. The selection of women as supervisors is significant to them, as most of them get their first opportunity to occupy a leadership role within traditionally paternal communities. With the women getting vital leadership experience, their work with UNOPS will groom them to take up more active roles in their communities and hopefully become future leaders. As UNOPS work within ZIRP enters a critical phase, more women will have the opportunity to lead their communities in important work that will shape their future.



Science Kits Bring Joy to Rural Pupils

In a classroom at Bumba Primary School in Zimbabwe's rural Chimanimani district, twelve-year old Antony Matandaudye becomes animated when he starts talking about rocks, weights and electricity. The metal box lying on a desk in the corner of the classroom has become his life in recent weeks, and he cannot wait for the teacher to ask him to open it as the science class begins.



"Inside we have rocks like this basalt," he says, lifting up a piece for the class to see after his teacher gave him permission to open the box. "We now know the different rocks across the world," he says, picking from a small wooden minerals, rocks and fossils samples kit.

"A periscope, a sound kit, and here an electricity kit and an optical kit. We now know the electricity flow of electricity and how electricity is generated," continues Antony, whose only source of energy back home is firewood. The rest of the class remains glued on him.

Antony wants to be an engineer, a profession he fell in love with after seeing them assist with the construction and repair of bridges and other infrastructure destroyed by Cyclone Idai.

"I asked one of the engineers constructing the bridges here [about becoming an engineer], he said I need to pass science first. I want to be like them, helping people," he says after the class.

Antony's dreams received a boost when UNICEF Zimbabwe supplied his school with science kits, which are equipped with items such as compasses, levers, hanging weights, pulleys, experiment trolleys, heat kits, magnetic kits, sun height gauges and seed germinating units.

UNICEF Zimbabwe's role in aiding in the teaching of science from primary school is part of its commitment to support the implementation of Zimbabwe's education curriculum reforms, which prioritise Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects at all levels of education. The support will also help Zimbabwe keep in touch with global trends to provide learners with 21st century skills and competences.

For pupils such as Antony of Bumba Primary School, the science kits have helped bridge the gap between rural and more affluent urban schools. They have also allowed children like him to dream again. In total 4,500 students will benefit from restored community schools and education services.

