

ZIMBABWE IDAI RECOVERY PROJECT

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020 • ISSUE 03



UNFPA to Respond to GBV Needs in Cyclone Idai Affected Areas under ZIRP Project

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has begun providing GBV prevention and survivor support to communities affected by Cyclone Idai. In the aftermath of the cyclone, the risk of GBV became pronounced. More than 140,000 out of the affected population were women and girls, of whom 50% were between 15-49 years old. The risk was increased for women and girls due to loss of livelihoods and capacity to access basic goods and services, overcrowding, inadequate wash facilities, inadequate public lighting and security measures.

Maria Ndagurwa* (35) from Chimanimani says when she moved into a public place with her children after the cyclone had destroyed their home, she thought they would be safe as they were staying with people from

her community. "One of the men who was in charge of the food distribution started proposing love to me, promising that he would give me tinned beef and cooking oil to feed my family. It made me uncomfortable more so because this was someone I knew; someone I had lived with in the same community before the cyclone."

“ It made me uncomfortable because this was someone I knew ”

It was also disturbing that the food was not his – this was food that had been donated by well-wishers.” UNFPA will leverage existing community-based GBV surveillance to strengthen case identification and reporting to specialized service

providers through engaging with at least two Behaviour Change Facilitators (BCFs) per district. The services will be operationalized through NGOs specializing in GBV multi-sectoral service provision.

Each team will have a GBV counsellor, a paralegal officer and a coordinator. The team will coordinate the provision of GBV services with the help of medical staff in WHO's mobile clinic teams and provide victims of GBV with clinical management of sexual violence services, including post rape treatment and referrals to higher level of care. These activities are critical in ensuring accessibility to the most vulnerable and hard to reach communities, and increase resilient systems and structures among the populations affected by Cyclone Idai.

**Names have been changed to protect the identity of beneficiaries*



WFP - Empowering Communities One Person at a Time

A lot has happened since Cyclone Idai. Moving forward is the only way, but it's not always an easy journey with an empty stomach. Food is the most important thing when rebuilding lives; it is fundamental and a right on its own. For Jacob Vakararadza and his family, life has been a roller coaster. He is not the man he used to be, something in him has changed. Jacob was involved in the reconstruction of the Zimunda weir by ZIRP.

Through the support from Under the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP) The World Food Programme (WFP) trained Jacob and his community emphasising on community capacity-building strengthen, helping to equip them with relevant information on agriculture, nutrition, health and hygiene, largely led by women, with the necessary technical and soft management skills. "You know we were raised being told that the kitchen is mainly for women and we men are the providers. I used to believe that nutrition issues are

mainly women issues, but this is wrong. I was wrong. Food and nutrition are important aspects for everyone, and men should be involved," said Jacob.

“**I never went to the garden, but now I am the first one to go. Food and nutrition are important aspects for everyone, and men should be involved**”

The weir dam is now fully operational and water supply to the garden has been restored at Zimunda. Improvements in food consumption patterns were observed from the start to the end-of-cycle period. The target of reducing the proportion of households with poor food consumption was reached. In addition, the coping strategy index decreased, reflecting a greater availability of food and/or increased access to food.

"I never went to the garden but now I am the first one to go, through the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) we were trained good agriculture skills by World Vision. We are grateful to the project for repairing our weir. Now we are planting a variety of crops which include maize, beans, peanuts among others," he added.

Under ZIRP, funded by the World Bank, WFP and partners have provided 180,000 people with food or cash in Chimanimani and Chipinge - the worst affected districts of Zimbabwe. From saving lives WFP and partners have moved to changing lives - ZIRP has helped communities in Chimanimani and Chipinge rebuild 13 community assets such as dip tanks, weirs and nutrition gardens that were damaged or destroyed by the cyclone. Under ZIRP, food assistance was combined with asset rehabilitation and infrastructure recovery in cyclone-affected communities, improving access and renewing livelihoods for nearly 5,800 households.



Chipinge Residents Benefit from ZIRP Mobile Clinics Health Services amid COVID-19

Two nurses, one laboratory technician, a pharmacy technician, an environmental health technician and a fully equipped mobile clinic are all that WHO team lead for Chipinge health outreach, Dr Nyasha Musiya, needs to embark on a health outreach in Mundanda Village, Chipinge. Mundanda Village is one of the largest rural provinces in Zimbabwe, located in Manicaland, 447km from the capital city Harare. To meet ongoing health needs and mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak, WHO resumed their mobile health services in Chipinge and Chimanmani. This is meant to strengthen Zimbabwe's public health infrastructure in order to reduce avoidable mortality, morbidity and disability.

One of the beneficiaries is Patience Mahlatini, a resident of Mundanda Village. On this day, she is one of the first patients Dr Musiya attends to under a tree at their mobile clinic located near Mundanda growth point. A single mother with no stable source of income, Patience survives by growing vegetables, which she sells for a little profit.

"I have no money to repair the damages caused by Cyclone Idai to my house. I have four children to fend for, so visiting the hospital with a doctor 45km away and also paying \$5USD for transport is a luxury," bemoaned Patience. Besides, Patience is not motivated to visit the local clinic near her which is approximately 13km away because there is no doctor or any medication.

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In most cases, she is referred to the hospital which is 45km away. In most cases, she is referred to the hospital which is 45km away. This is why her community prefers to attend the outreaches as the doctor and medication is brought at a central point near their homes, free of charge.

"I have been feeling really ill for the past week and I did not have money to visit my local hospital with a doctor. As soon as our village health worker told us the community outreach was going to take place today, I made sure I was the first person here," explained Patience. She adds: "I am most grateful for the free consultation at one place and medication I simply cannot afford. I know that the doctor will be back next week and I will have a follow up visit. Because of this community outreach, health services are now the least of my worries as it is delivered at my doorstep."

Thanks to the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP) funded by the World Bank, managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and implemented by FAO, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, Patience and residents of Mundanda and other villages in Chipinge continue to receive free healthcare services and medication in their respective communities. Chipinge is one of the nine targeted districts under ZIRP receiving free mobile health care services.



Post-Harvest Management Ensuring Food Security after Cyclone Idai

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in partnership with World Vision and Leveraging Economic Advancement of the Disadvantaged (LEAD), is helping farmers in Cyclone Idai affected areas to rebuild their livelihoods, food and nutrition security and strengthen resilience to future shocks; through provision of crops and livestock inputs as well as training and extension services.

“One such training, post-harvest management, has resulted in a significant reduction in post-harvest losses,” says Constance Pepukai, the FAO ZIRP Project Coordinator. By supplying farmers with hermetic bags, pesticide costs have been cut. Hermetic bags provide an air tight storage solution that protects and preserves the quality of dried grains and pulses. With these bags there is no health or the environment risk caused by the use of pesticides. FAO is promoting and encouraging farmers to use hermetic bags for

crop storage, by educating farmers on the potential benefits. The stored grain can last up to two years and the bag is reusable. Improved storage allows farmers to reap the benefits of improved prices by delaying sales until market prices improve. Farmers say hermetic bags are reducing losses from 35%-40% to almost zero; an enormous gain for farmers who lost almost everything during Cyclone Idai.

“I can safely say 'nzara yapera mumba mangu [hunger has ended in my household]”

Elina, like many farmers in the ZIRP districts, had a harvest which was three times more than her usual harvest. She added that the one tonne of maize she harvested, through good farming and preservation practices, will fetch her good prices at the Grain Marketing Board (GMB).

She would be willing to sell a surplus of about half a tonne well beyond harvest, contributing to the national grain reserves. “The other half tonne will be for family consumption which will last me the whole year,” she added. Another beneficiary of the ZIRP project, 36-year-old single mother of two, Farrie Mlambo said that good farming practices and better post-harvest management of her grain, had helped her to have an unprecedented surplus grain of 100kgs, which she sold for 500 Rands.

Farrie invested the money in poultry business. She is hoping to sell her chickens for a profit and buy inputs for the next farming season while remaining enough money to feed her family of three. “I sold 2 50kg bags of surplus maize and invested that money to buy hens. The first hen has hatched 8 chicks and the second hen is brooding 14 eggs. I can safely say ‘nzara yapera mumba mangu,’ [Hunger has ended in my household].”



UNOPS and FAO Rehabilitate Irrigation Schemes to Improve Zimbabwe's Food Security

Food Security is a major concern in Zimbabwe, with 1 in 4 children aged under 5 facing the risk of impaired physical and cognitive growth. A lack of access to proper nutrition for the country's children poses a serious threat to Zimbabwe's future and requires urgent attention.

Through funding provided by the World Bank through the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project, UNOPS and FAO have combined their efforts to improve Zimbabwe's food security situation by supporting the rehabilitation of irrigation schemes that were damaged by Cyclone Idai. Seven irrigation schemes have been identified for rehabilitation in Chipinge, Chimanimani and Mutare districts. The rehabilitation of four irrigation schemes, Gudyanga, Maunganidze, Bwerudza, and Nyanyadzi, started in September after UNOPS and FAO had completed detailed assessments and developed the designs. For each of the targeted schemes, the rehabilitation work being undertaken has two goals.

Firstly, UNOPS is repairing infrastructure that was damaged by Cyclone Idai such as main canals, in-field canals, and storm drains. Secondly, under the principle of "build back better" UNOPS has developed sustainable solutions for energy and water supply.

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These solutions include the installation of solar-powered pumps, the drilling of boreholes, and the construction of weirs. With these solutions, UNOPS is aiming to ensure that the schemes can operate in all seasons and retain a high rate of productivity throughout the year. The rehabilitation of these schemes will benefit 903 farmers and their families. UNOPS is amplifying the impact of the rehabilitation work by

recruiting community labourers to complete some of the labour intensive activities required. In September, UNOPS recruited 66 workers to work in four schemes. The recruitment of community labourers provides them with an opportunity to gain job skills that improve their employability and also provides them with supplementary income. At least half of the community workers are women, many of whom received their first opportunity to work in the construction industry through UNOPS.

UNOPS plans to complete the ongoing construction work in December, allowing the first four schemes to be fully operational by January. Rehabilitation of the remaining schemes will begin in November and end in May 2021. More than 500 community workers will benefit from employment in the schemes during period. This work will improve Zimbabwe's food security situation and reduce the vulnerability of rural communities to the fluctuations in the food market.



UNICEF Distributes Teaching and Learning Materials in Cyclone-Idai Ravaged Districts

There is now reprieve for 85,516 learners as UNICEF Zimbabwe, through support from the World Bank-funded Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP), distributes teaching and learning materials to help communities recover after the devastation from Cyclone Idai in 2019. The Cyclone disaster that struck mostly the eastern parts of the Southern African country and some parts of Mozambique in March 2019, directly affected an estimated 270,000 people in Zimbabwe alone, with children constituting half the affected population (129,000 children).

Essential infrastructure including schools and road network systems were destroyed, leaving learners stranded and in need of humanitarian assistance. In no more than a year, the COVID-19 pandemic worsened the situation of the victims of Cyclone Idai as families were still battling the effects of the disaster. As part of ZIRP, UNOPS is working on

rehabilitating damaged primary and secondary schools in Chimanimani. To complement UNOPS' efforts, UNICEF Education section is responsible for the procurement of teaching and learning materials for the cyclone affected schools. "Our main thrust is to complement government efforts in its quest to provide equitable access to quality education," said UNICEF Representative, Laylee Moshiri.

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The support given to the schools supplements health interventions to protect learners, teachers and communities

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"The provision of additional teaching and learning materials is meant to enhance access quality education," she added.

In phase 2 of UNICEF's procurement, UNICEF has expedited the procurement process of additional supplies and materials that will benefit the same 133 schools. "Like the procurement of Personal Protective Equipment that was done in response to COVID-19, the procurement of teaching and learning materials will ensure continuity of learning as well as maintaining quality learning," Moshiri said.

As part of a Back to School reintegration plan, the project facilitates safe return to quality learning for learners, teachers and school communities when schools eventually open. The provision of hygiene kits supports schools and parents in the Cyclone Idai devastated communities as the deteriorating socio-economic environment makes it difficult for parents to cope. The support given to the schools supplements health interventions to protect learners, teachers and communities.



Beyond Cyclone Idai Imagination

Cyclone Idai remains a dark event which always brings back sad memories to the victims in Chimanimani District. Among them is Mollin Bheme, aged 56, who has found solace residing in Garikai Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp. Mollin used to stay alone at Westwood Hall and survived on livestock sales before she lost everything, including her house and livestock being washed away by the devastating cyclone.

Life has never been the same for Mollin, however, being housed at Garikai IDP Camp she has found a new family and new meaning of life with lots of love from the IDP Community, Government Departments and the Donor Community at large. Before the cyclone she owned cattle, goats and chickens which were her main livelihood support, but now it remains history as they were all washed away. Mollin has been surviving on donations ever since the ravaging cyclone.

Just like other IDPs, Mollin is grateful for the registration that was done on IDP camp beneficiaries and regular surveys conducted in camps under ZIRP, including those done by IOM which assist among other issues; updating IDP information in camps such as taking note of gaps and needs.

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Mollin has been surviving on donations ever since the ravaging cyclone. Now she has access to healthcare at her doorstep

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WHO ZIRP Health programme has assisted people like Mollin who suffers from leg ailments to the extent that she cannot walk long distances. Now she has access to healthcare at her door step as mobile free healthcare support is availed to the IDPs on a regular

basis in various areas including Garikai IDP Camp. Mollin said “Ndoda kutenda imi veIOM nemamwe madonor kusanganisira hurumende nerubatsiro rwatiri kuwana muno muma camps, nekuti pasina rubatsiro rweze rwatiri kupihwa tingadayi takatofa kare.” [I want to thank the IOM and other donors for working with government and for the support we are receiving in camps. Without all your help, we would have been long dead.]”

Mollin wishes to have decent accommodation with access to water so that she can venture into various projects including market gardening as well as livestock rearing. She ventured into a chicken project with the support she got from Jairos Jiri, however the earnings from the sales were eroded by the challenges brought about by COVID 19. Some of the IDPs have moved out of the camp to seek better accommodation as the tents are now in a bad shape. However Mollin remains stuck in the camp as she has no other alternative to call home except life in the tent.