COVID-19 SECOND WAVE CONTEXT

Zimbabwe was hit by the second wave of COVID-19 in January 2021, forcing the Government to declare a 30-day lockdown from 02 January amidst rising cases and deaths. The regulations barred gatherings, imposed a curfew and restricted movement to only essential services. For ZIRP, only the health sector was considered essential services, impacting all other project sectors. The following are highlights on project achievements in the month of January within the restrictions of the COVID-19 second wave.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Harvesting of early planted maize crop is underway across all irrigation schemes, with late planted crop at the soft dough stage. Seedbed preparation for tomatoes and onions is in full swing across all irrigation schemes. Facilitation of agricultural production and market linkages for farmers in irrigations schemes continues. In January, Cairns foods and National Tested Seeds engaged farmers at Chipendeke for Michigan and Sugar bean seed production respectively.

Designs for Chipendeke Irrigation Scheme were approved in January and two contracts were issued for technical works in 4 irrigation schemes. 11 community workers were employed at Bwerudza Irrigation Scheme during the month of January.

Four dipping sessions were held, bringing the total to 29 out of 48 targeted dipping sessions across 297 community-managed dip tanks.

- **4,084** cattle have been vaccinated against botulism anthrax and blackleg, bringing the total to 460,717. **1,700** community-based vaccinators have been registered in the 8 target districts.
- **24,444** cattle have been dewormed to control intestinal parasites to improve production and productivity across 8 cyclone-affected districts bringing the total to 497,419.

EDUCATION

A standardised draft design for schools was completed. UNOPS CI awaiting stakeholder engagement to be conducted in February 2021.

Delivery of **supplies for hygiene kits** is in progress.
HEALTH AND WASH

VHWs continued with community-based service delivery. 757 people were reached with community sensitization on health promotion.
Designs for the isolation ward at St. Peter's Mission hospital were approved by UNOPS. The designs are now being discussed with the stakeholders.

128,351 people were reached with basic services.

Six water points were installed - 5 springs and 1 deep well, increasing access to water for 1,537 more people. 24,288 people now have access to clean water.

Two squat holes were constructed, bringing the total to 88 squat holes in schools benefitting 4,898 pupils and 24 in Health Care Facilities (HCFs). 103 households constructed squat holes, 58 latrines for vulnerable households and 45 latrines constructed under the sanitation-focused PHHE methodology. 16,744 people were reached with promotion of improved hygiene practices using Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE), cumulatively 651,878 people have been reached.

CROSS CUTTING ELEMENTS

Minor assessments were carried out in Ruwedza and Nyamusundu to inspect any damage caused by the rains (Cyclone Chalene).
MOWA and MOHCC facilitated clearance of movement of community cadres during the January lockdown, given the essential nature of GBV services and the criticality of timely referrals.

3000 dignity kits were procured and delivery to Musasa is in progress.

292 GBV survivors were referred for services by community cadres and 153 survivors reached through mobile OSC
IMPACT OF COVID-19
SECOND WAVE

The second COVID-19 second wave has impacted several activities of project implementation. These activities will resume once COVID-19 restrictions are eased.

**Food security and livelihoods**
Training of farmers and monitoring of project activities in irrigation schemes were suspended. Procurement and delivery processes have been hampered, delaying the fencing of gardens as originally planned by FAO.

**Health**
Social mobilisations and outdoor media campaigns were suspended, and the expected date of completion is now April 2021. Monitoring field visits had to be suspended. As mitigation, UNICEF Health continued to engage with MOHCC and ensured categorisation of this activity as part of essential services.

**WASH**
Construction of sanitation facilities was confined. Training for Community structures, DWSCC, PWSSCs and National level government structures was suspended.

**Education**
Planned Post Distribution monitoring in schools could not be conducted as schools are closed.

**Community infrastructure**
The main construction works on the roads were suspended. Community work in the irrigation schemes was also suspended. Procurement and delivery of labour works’ materials, tools and services have been affected and will resume once restrictions ease. Stakeholder and community meetings impacted, and monitoring of works was suspended.

**Cross-cutting elements**
IOM rescheduled data collection for the Return, Reintegration and Recovery Assessments from the planned 22 February to 7 March 2021.
UNFPA activities were not impacted, as they lobbied due to the critical and sensitive nature of their interventions.

ZIRP continues to engage relevant stakeholders to facilitate continuation of project activities so as to minimise the impact of the Cyclone damage and COVID-19 pandemic on the target communities.
COVID-19 RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

In response to COVID-19, the following interventions were supported through ZIRP, under various targeted sectors in the month of January.

360,367 people (cumulatively) have been reached directly through key health and hygiene promotion, including messaging on IPC for COVID-19.

Health and Hygiene awareness activities undertaken in response to COVID-19 in cyclone affected high-risk areas of Mutare and Chipinge have led to considerable number of people reached and engagement with citizens using innovative approaches such as mobile units.

Five solar chargers were delivered in January, finalising the procurement of IT equipment for disease surveillance in Chipinge and Chimanimani.

ONE PROJECT
ONE TEAM
ZIRP Overview January 2021

**Food Security and Livelihoods**
- 297 community dipping tanks have completed
- 29 out of 48 dipping sessions
- 1,393,329 livestock dewormed and vaccinated
dewormed Blackleg, Anthrax and Botulism
- Rehabilitation of 4 irrigation schemes in progress
- 13 certificates for community assets handed over
- More than 230,000 people received food assistance to date

**Health & WASH**
- 1,637,579 people reached with community
sensitisation on health promotion interventions
- 63 wards with risk mitigation infrastructure constructed
- 6,072 households have restored access to
water and sanitation services
- Capacity building completed for 2,477
village health workers in 9 districts
- 549,645 people provided with basic health
package services and support

**Education**
- 88,516 students in 134 schools benefited
from teaching and learning supplies
- 70 classroom tents distributed
- RapidPro Survey template approved for
deployment
- 64,418 school backpacks distributed
- 426 community workers engaged in
rehabilitation of infrastructure
- 500 units of school-in-a-box distributed

**Cross-Cutting Elements**
- 4 access roads undergoing rehabilitation
- 17 one on one DTM sessions held with TAs to inform
programming
- 733 GBV survivors reached through mobile OSC
- 131 GBV survivors provided with
transport to higher levels of care
- 400 Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits distributed
- 300 recreational kits distributed
- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) surveys and
assessments conducted
COVID-19 Response

8
Environmental Health Technicians (EHTs) were trained on disease surveillance

812
community peer supervisors were identified and oriented on supportive supervisory, mentorship and coaching skills

Health workers provided with laptops, tablets and phones to use in disease surveillance

2,476
VHWs in all the 9 ZIRP-targeted districts received refresher training on integrated COVID-19 prevention, community-based surveillance and home-based IPC

580
VHWs recruited, trained and deployed increasing the coverage in the targeted districts to at least 81% of villages with VHWs

26
health workers from 19 Health Facilities (7 ZIRP-supported mission hospitals and 12 Regional Council Clinics) were trained on case management and IPC

1,179
specimens have been transported to government labs for testing

3 out of 8
art murals have been completed for community messaging targeting nearly 2.5 million people indirectly in the 9 ZIRP districts

18
motorcycles procured for delivery specimen transportation

4,276
UNICEF VHWs and 9 UNICEF Health training centres in Chimanimani and Chipinge districts received PPEs and IPC

5
ZIRP-supported mission hospital labs received supplies and consumables

5
design for a 12-bed isolation ward at St. Peter’s Mission Hospital has been approved

In addition to procurement of PPE, ZIRP is supporting the health systems response to COVID-19 through capacity strengthening at institutional and community level by reinforcing COVID-19 surveillance, lab support, case management, IPC, including RCCE and continuity of essential services in line with the COVID-19 National Response Plan and priorities.