

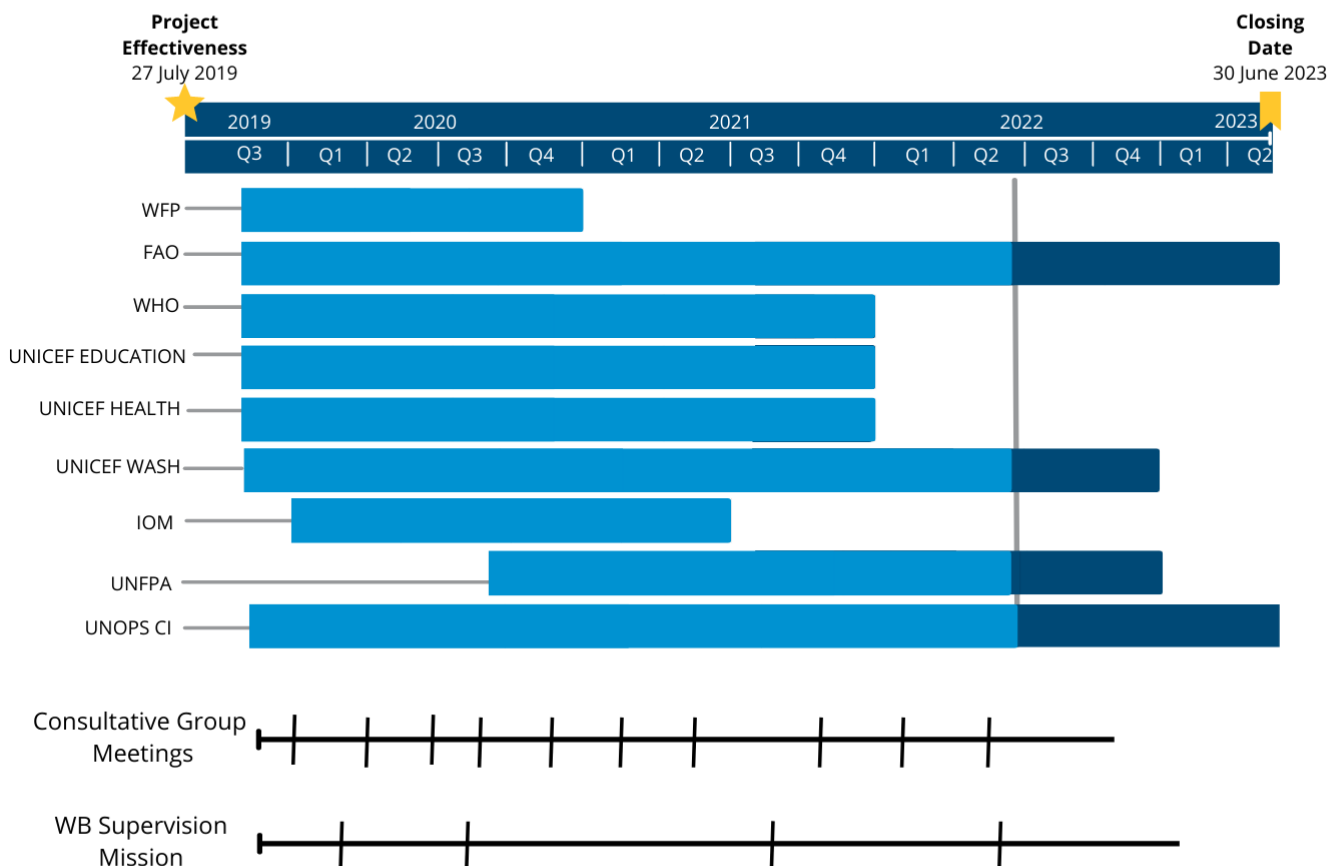
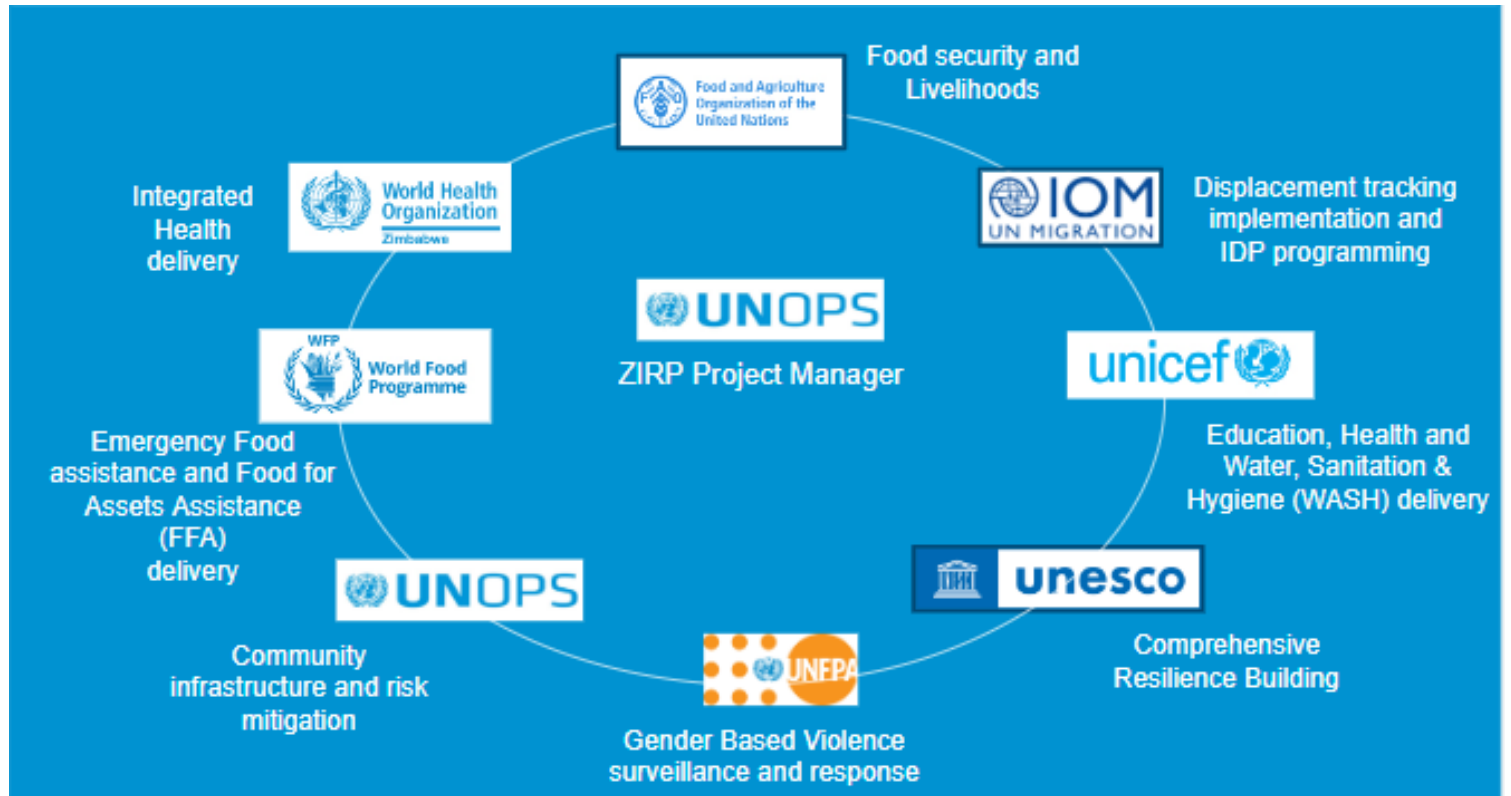


# ZIRP MAY 2022 OVERVIEW



**Zimbabwe  
Idai Recovery  
Project**

# One Project One Team





2 dipping sessions were  
conducted for livestock



All the **408** goats that died have  
been replaced



## Maunganidze irrigation- collaboration and integration of agencies for greater impact

The Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP) has transformed the lives of 84 farmers and community through the rehabilitated Maunganidze Irrigation Scheme.

The project has completely transformed the attitudes of farmers as they no longer practice farming for their own consumption but also for commercial purpose. Maunganidze farmers have since seen an increase in yields after adopting good practices such as buying seeds instead of retaining crops for seeds. Apart from business links the farmers have been creating, ZIRP has enabled them to create jobs for their fellow community members as high tomato production enables them to recruit people to work in their plots. The project has supported farmers by creating output and input linkages with entities such as Seedco, Agricura and GMB. This has made the scheme sustainable.

The innovation by the ZIRP including the solar farm that has lowered cost of production is one of the best benefits the farmers are enjoying. Stanley Mazhambe, FAO extension officer at Maunganidze Irrigation Scheme said they have introduced resilient varieties and are making efforts to improve crop rotation so that farmers can get the most out of their work. The farmers have also been trained on value addition, so as to differentiate their produce with the rest giving them a competitive advantage.

*"We are processing dried tomatoes which we are selling and have also been trained on pulp making. We are also making dried vegetables and packaging our beans for retail", said the chairman of the scheme.*

*"We have also procured a maputi making machine to add value to our crops", he added.*

Look and learn visits have been facilitated by the project to foster peer reviews. Over 50 schemes from as far as Matebeland have been to Maunganidze to share good practises and key learnings. Collaboration with government stakeholders is imperative for the success and sustainability of projects.

ZIRP works closely with AGRITEX officers who are constantly guiding the farmers. ZIRP emphasizes good environmental and social practices in all its interventions. Farmers have been taught how to handle chemicals, use PPE and dispose of containers safely. They are also encouraged to use green chemicals and desist from using chemicals in the red category.





St Peters Isolation ward-  
rehabilitation works at **45%**  
progress to completion

Mutsvanga  
maternal health center-  
rehabilitation works at  
**17%** progress to completion



## VHWs' integral role in disaster preparedness and response



In the health sector, Village Health Workers (VHWs) play a vital role in the front line of rural communities across Zimbabwe and during emergency situations such as the Cyclone Idai. During the implementation of the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP), VHWs have been key in the delivery of health assistance to the Idai affected communities.

Chipinge district Medical officer Dr Mugari appreciated and outlined the support provided under ZIRP during the world bank field visit in the month of May.

*"ZIRP has strengthened our community health structures through capacity building for VHWs and this has been key in relieving the health sector of emergency pressure. We now have 3 apostolic Marange sect village health workers which has helped a lot in penetrating their church and communities with health messages", said Dr Mugari.*

Statistics of malaria have drastically reduced in the affected communities because of the work of VHWs in malaria testing, prevention and control. Villages have developed health strategies in coordination with their village heads and community leaders, ensuring that the work of VHWs is sustained beyond ZIRP.

VHWs were also very crucial in making sure communities are resilient when COVID-19 hit because of the support they rendered through awareness raising, surveillance and control. In some communities where outbreaks occurred, VHWs were the first to raise the alarm.

Although ZIRP is coming to its completion, the government will continue from where the project has left off in supporting VHWs as they are a critical link between the Ministry of Health and Child Care and communities.



Distribution of hygiene kits still pending, contract was awarded and now waiting for the procurement process

## UNICEF Zimbabwe tents avert classroom shortages in Chipinge schools



Whenever the storm clouds appear, teachers at Clearwater School in Chipinge pack 800 pupils into the Secondary School's only two classroom blocks.

*"That was the only way to ensure the children's safety," explained Moffat Sigauke, the headmaster of the school. "Some of the pupils were learning under a tree exposed to the vagaries of the weather. There was no way they could be let out in such unforgiving weather."*

Clearwater is a satellite school in south-eastern Zimbabwe, Manicaland Province, a region prone to harsh weather associated with climate change.

In March 2019, the deadly Cyclone Idai hit the Eastern Highlands, unleashing heavy rains and strong winds that triggered flooding and landslides. More than 340 people died, and 140 schools were affected as huge boulders that cascaded down the mountains flattened homes and entire townships.

Clearwater was among the cyclone affected schools which received a classroom tent which accommodates 30 pupils who used to learn under a tree. These pupils would miss school when it was either raining or during cold winter days .

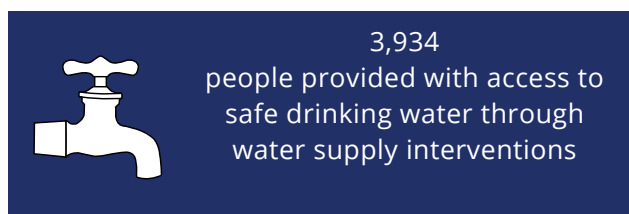
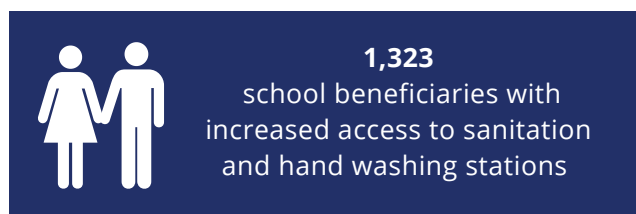
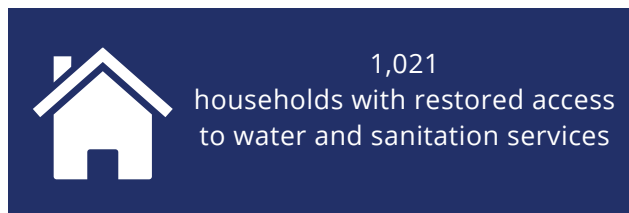
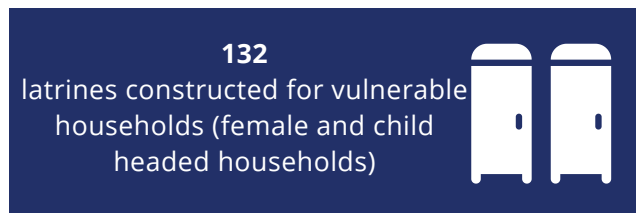
*"By providing classroom the tent, UNICEF made teaching and learning easier. It is better to teach in a tent than under a tree,"* remarked the headmaster who thanked the ZIRP for the support.

He added before the donation *"there was access to education without quality,"* at his school and was heartened that pupils were now coming to school every day as a result.

Apart from the tent, Clearwater secondary school also got satchels (school backpacks) for pupils, educational kits containing pens, exercise books, textbooks, markers for teachers, chalks, blackboard paint, dusters, and other things which the headmaster said made learning easier.

[Read full article](#)

During the period under review, 98 self-driven households latrines were constructed (incl. piloting models flood resistant latrines,) 4 sanitation facilities (squatholes) were constructed in health centres with hand-washing facilities and 10 sanitation facilities (squatholes) constructed at schools with hand-washing facilities



## Community Health Clubs uses innovative ways to avert another disaster

From the nightmare of a devastating cyclone, people in Zimbabwe's Bikita district are using ingenious ways to take charge of their future and develop a prosperous and health conscious community better able to respond to current and future challenges, such as COVID-19.

On a concrete slab at Vushe Primary School in Bikita district in the south-eastern province of Masvingo, a group of boys punch, some kip-ups and kicks barefoot as part of a martial arts routine. *"We are members of the school health club,"* said Tendayi Mageka (10), wearing a blue t-shirt inscribed with messages encouraging hygienic practices. *"These are just some of the things we do to get people to pay attention to our messages,"* said Mageka, referring to the martial arts show.

From being victims of Cyclone Idai in 2019, both children and adults in this rural district of more than 170,000 people are emerging as champions of safe health practices and the epitome of resilience. Health clubs formed or revived from the shards of the cyclone are taking the lead to stop COVID-19 from becoming another disaster in their area.



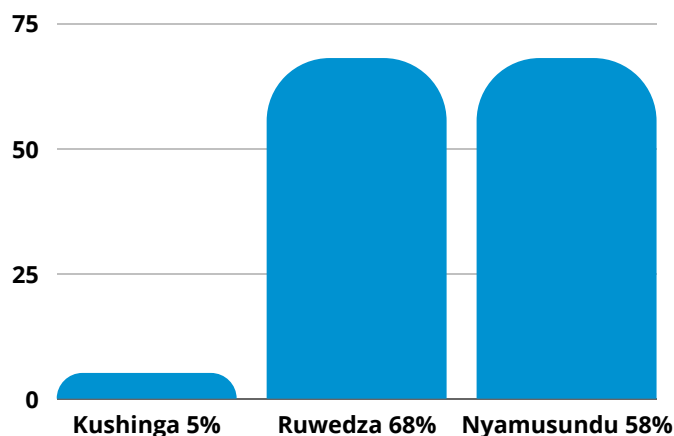
For members of the 78-member school health club, this means drilling messages of safe WASH practices into both their peers and older community members.

*"They disseminate information from home to school and from school to home; educating people on how the water and hygiene problems brought by the cyclone have turned into an opportunity to help us fight COVID-19 and other diseases. We have the new infrastructure, but people out there still need information, so the children also perform outside the school,"* said Flora Chikumbo, the school health coordinator.

[Read full article](#)



## PROGRESS ON REHABILITATION OF ROADS



**5,079** persons benefited through rehabilitated community infrastructure and risk reduction interventions



## Disability Inclusion in ZIRP implementation

The United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy provides the foundation for sustainable and transformative progress on disability inclusion through all pillars of the work of the United Nations. Through the Strategy, the organizations of the United Nations system reaffirm that the full and complete realization of the human rights of all persons with disabilities is an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Strategy is the result of a process launched by the Secretary-General in April 2018 to strengthen system-wide accessibility for persons with disabilities and the mainstreaming of their rights. Its development was informed by an extensive institutional review led by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities.

UNOPS Zimbabwe continues to uphold its commitment to human rights and the human rights-based approach, and always assess opportunities to further emphasize the organization's commitment to the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities in relevant operational activities.

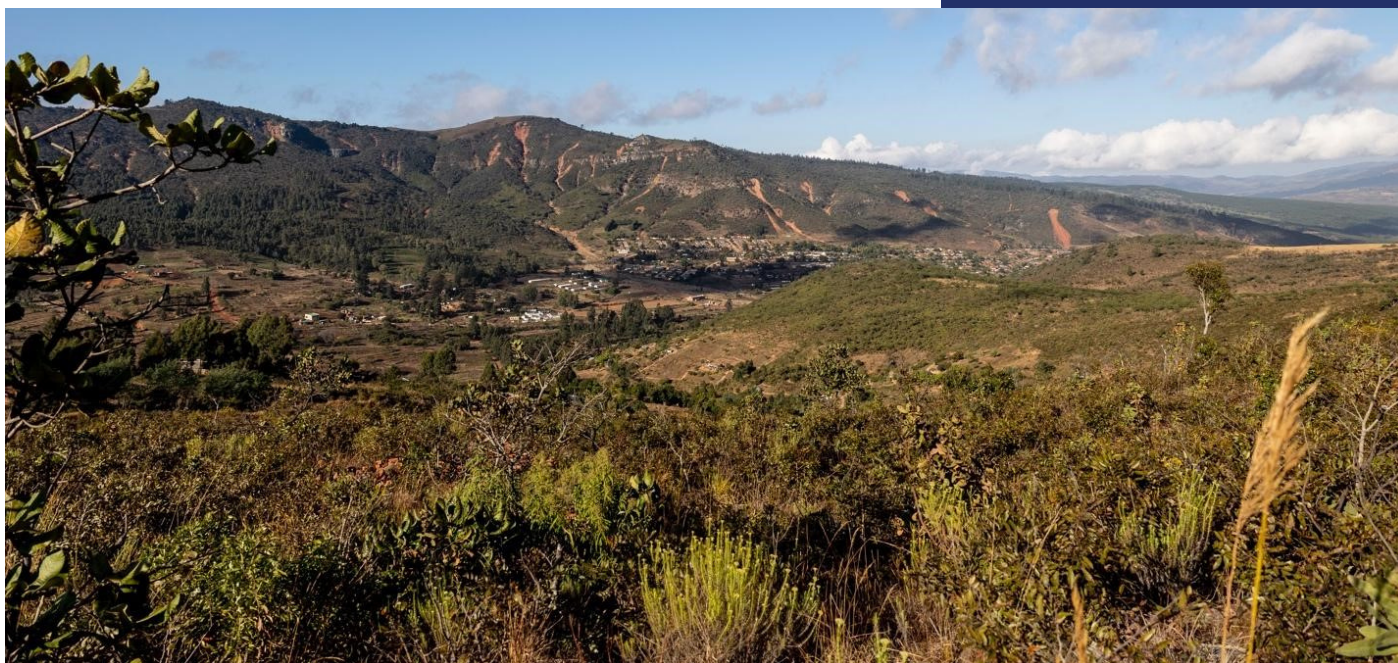


This approach has been embraced in implementing community based projects.

*"I am very grateful to ZIRP for considering people with disabilities on the rehabilitation of our community road. They saw the potential in us and allowed us to participate in the road works we feel we have contributed to the development of our own community,"* said Mr Takarindwa Gari (born with cerebral palsy) community worker, Matezwa-Gumira Road.

Mainstreaming a human rights-based approach to disability, will make the concerns and experiences of persons with disabilities an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that persons with disabilities benefit equally.

## Chimanimani joins the Biosphere Reserve network in Southern Africa



On Wednesday 15 June, at its annual meeting, the Man and Biosphere (MAB) International Coordinating Council (ICC) approved the nominations of the Chimanimani Biosphere Reserve in Zimbabwe and the Kafue Flats Biosphere Reserve in Zambia.

For Zimbabwe, it is the second BR, after the inclusion of the Middle Zambezi BR in 2010. The participatory nomination process was supported by UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) in the context of the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project financed by the World Bank and managed by UNOPS.

Zimbabwe's second Biosphere Reserve, the Chimanimani BR, includes the Chimanimani district in Zimbabwe's eastern highlands, and forms part of a transboundary landscape that is part of the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot. The intention is to develop the landscape towards a transboundary BR with Mozambique. There are 5 core areas, including the Chimanimani Mountains NP, a unique area of thick, moist evergreen forest with a high

degree of endemism, particularly in terms of flora, with 40 endemic flowering plants reported. Fauna includes considerable birdlife, including the endemic bokmakierie and cape bunting, and several raptors; mammals include a number of browsers; and a unique frog species, the critically endangered endemic cave squeaker.

Among the challenges that the BR seeks to address, is building resilience against increased extreme weather events, such as the 2019 cyclone Idai; and the impact of mining.

For the southern Africa region, 7 countries now have a total of 18 Biosphere Reserves: eSwatini (1); Lesotho (1); Malawi (2); Mozambique (1); South Africa (10); Zambia (1); Zimbabwe (2). Botswana and Namibia are the two remaining countries. Both countries have a rich experience with landscape approaches to conservation, and are participating in the AfriMAB programme activities, but have not yet nominated a BR.



**393**

persons reached with GBV services  
through mobile One Stop Centre



**121**

survivors were provided with  
transport to higher levels of care.



**9**

survivors received post rape care



**338**

GBV survivors were  
supported through legal  
support.



**521**

Sexually abused individuals  
were initiated on PEP.



## GBV during emergencies

Gender-based violence (GBV) takes many forms in times of crisis, both in private and public life. The prevalence and risks of GBV increase as existing gender inequalities are exacerbated by the chaos and tensions within households, communities, and society.

Due to this undeniable fact, one of ZIRP's mandate is to address GBV experienced by women, men and children in Cyclone Idai affected communities through mobile outreach one stop clinics.

The concept of mobile outreach clinics is not new. ZIRP improved the effectiveness of these clinics by taking an integrated approach where medical, pharmacy, lab and GBV services are accessible at one site so as to help victims of GBV access essential services at one center.

One of the best practices by ZIRP was setting up a mobile one stop centre at Mutambara maternity waiting shelter as it has been enabling pregnant women find a safe space to open up on abuse by intimate partners.

The survivor training support has been provided to 30 hospital staff to ensure confidentiality, and appreciation of the referral pathway.

The training for community cadres is integrated to include prevention and risk mitigation measures and drive long term behaviour change in targeted communities.

*"We help women, children and even men who are victims of GBV. Men can trust us with their issues because we have been trained to maintain strict confidentiality. We refer them to expert help that would be suitable for the issue", said Gladys Gambura, behavior change facilitator.*



ZIRP has mainstreamed GBV support across all sectors of the project. Through behaviour change facilitators, GBV survivors are identified and referred for free support under the project. ZIRP has also been supporting men in abusive circumstances to dispel the myth that GBV support is only for women.



## Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project

financed by THE WORLD BANK  
managed by UNOPS

# Highlights of Project Results



More than  
**230,000**

people received food assistance to date

**21,947**

households supported through agricultural and livestock inputs



**70**

dipping sessions conducted



**3,619,884**

livestock vaccinated/treated

Rehabilitation works in

**6**

irrigation schemes completed



**2,781**

households have constructed latrines



**34,958**

households have restored access to water and sanitation services



**661,394**

people provided with basic health package services and support



**3,784,821**

people reached with community sensitisation on health promotion interventions

Capacity building completed for

**2,843**

village health workers in 9 districts



**88,516**

students in 134 schools benefited from teaching and learning supplies

**92**

classroom tents distributed



**400**

Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits distributed

**64,418**

school backpacks distributed



**500**

units of school-in-a-box distributed



**300**

recreational kits distributed

**6,518**

GBV survivors reached through mobile OSC

**716** survivors were provided with transport for higher level of care



**3,000**

women and girls received dignity kits

**191**

survivors received post rape care



**215,196**

people benefited through rehabilitated community infrastructure and risk reduction interventions



**3**



access roads completed. **6** access roads undergoing rehabilitation



**19**

kilometers of damaged access roads completed

**10**

Displacement Tracking Matrix surveys and assessments conducted



**25**

one on one sessions conducted with TAs to review DTM data and inform ZIRP programming







**Zimbabwe  
Idai Recovery  
Project**

financed by THE WORLD BANK  
managed by UNOPS

# COVID-19 Response

**4**

ambulances, 2 four-wheel drive vehicles and 1 PCR extraction machine purchased and handed over to mission hospitals to strengthen disease surveillance and response



**36**

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



**130**

Environmental Health Technicians (EHTs) were trained on disease surveillance and are now deployed



**580**

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



**812**

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



**168**

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



**45%** of rehabilitation works have been completed at St. Peters Isolation ward



**99,839**

specimens have been transported to government labs for testing



**4,276**

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



**18**

motorcycles procured for delivery specimen transportation



**5**

ZIRP-supported mission hospital labs received supplies and consumables



**10**

art murals have been completed for community messaging targeting nearly **2.5** million people indirectly in the **9** ZIRP districts



In addition to procurement of PPE, ZIRP has supported 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. Health interventions, with the exception of construction works, are now complete.

# Project Key Lessons

**The following are key lessons learned during this period, that could inform future programming.**

Farmer to farmer exchange trainings and technology demonstration has proved effective in enhancing farmers local capacities and ownership of key agricultural production initiatives. For example farmers using locally available resources to construct Black Solider Fly (BSF) production sites to produce BSF for livestock supplementary feed.

Key lesson learnt from the goat mortality incident in Nov 2021 is that timing of livestock distribution is critical to synchronise with feed availability and availability of medical starter pack to minimise stressors.

Under the health sector, the importance of on-job training for VHWs and Provincial Health Centre medical teams/mentorship; to ensure rapid skills transfer to full operational level throughout programming and beyond.

Under the education component, COVID-19 has amplified the importance of prioritising investment in specific forms of school infrastructure (building of classrooms and hygiene facilities). The tents provided temporary learning spaces in the short and medium term.

The importance of joint inclusive WASH programming with local authorities supporting WASH infrastructure performance monitoring including water quality and safety.

There is a need to work further with local suppliers and service providers to build their capacity when building community infrastructure.

Identifying spaces where women feel safe and free to report is key in the delivery of mobile one stop centres. Maternity waiting homes, IDP camps and water points were some of the spaces utilized thus ensuring continued service provision in the evolving context.





# Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project



**UNOPS Zimbabwe, 10 York Road, Newlands, Harare, Zimbabwe**  
**info.zim@unops.org**  
**Website: [www.zirp\\_zimbabwe.org](http://www.zirp_zimbabwe.org)**  
**Twitter: [zirp\\_zimbabwe](https://twitter.com/zirp_zimbabwe)**