

Southern Africa Regional Technical Cash Working Group (SARTCWG)

Cyclone Idai regional coordination

Zimbabwe: Cash Working Group and Social Protection Working Group Updates

The situation in Zimbabwe is evolving rapidly, The information included in this sitrep below reflects the current understanding of the different groups as of 4 April 2019.

An active Social Protection Working group exists in Harare and a national CWG in Harare is being reactivated since the start of the emergency.

There already exists significant cash transfer programs in Zimbabwe as part of the El Niño response ongoing from 2018



Sit Rep 1
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Map Sources: ESRI, UNCS, The Times Atlas of the World.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created in Sep 2013.

Social Protection Working Group Update

The Harmonized Social Cash Transfer (HSCT) and/or DREAMS programmes include beneficiaries in affected areas

Chipinge – DREAMS district with database/registration through HSCT systems. Payments ended in late-2018. Approximate registration: 6,218 households.

Chimanimani – registration under HSCT complete for approximately 3,000 households. However, no payments yet issued/not active HSCT

households.

Buhera – registered under HSCT with Child Protection Fund financing for approximately 7,605 households. Two scheduled payments left before CPF closure.

Discussions on responses through the national system are in their infancy, as early responses have focused on market assessments and in-kind distributions of essential food items.

There is some possibility of using HSCT registration and/or payment systems as a basis for response, or for vertical expansion in Buhera.

However, currency shortages in Zimbabwe remain a constraint, and multisector response assessments will need to review both the availability of goods on the market and the feasibility of cash-out for beneficiaries in affected districts.

WFP has also been asked by the Ministry of Public Works to look at wider support around social assistance, in addition to the work being undertaken by the social protection partners under the Sector Review.

A draft report on proposed assistance will be circulated next week.

Harare Cash Working Group Update

The CWG in Harare met last week – Care Zimbabwe and WFP Co-chairs, but most actors were in the field doing rapid response

The CWG members confirmed that the government is agreeable to the use of Cash assistance,

The initial rapid assessment in the affected districts revealed that markets were not functional and there was significant damage to the infrastructure in the affected areas.

A joint WFP-UNICEF cash readiness assessment is underway to look at the feasibility of these responses, and a follow up market assessment will take place late in the week of 8 April.

WFP is preliminarily considering transferring households in their in-kind cyclone

response caseload to lean season support.

CWG members find that the markets are not currently fully functioning and as a result Cash WG Partners currently do not find Cash a feasible response option, plans are underway for a market assessment to see if the situation has changed.

Most actors have been using in kind not cash but the CWG expects to see increased use of Cash in the next few weeks as the situation continues to normalize.

There is growing concern the emergency may be larger than expected as more areas are reached.

Actors in the CWG felt that there was limited capacity of the existing SP systems to respond due to ongoing economic crisis.

An enquiry was made on how the Zimbabwe CWG could request the deployment of a CashCap expert to support the CWG in undertaking coordination, market analysis and response analysis.

Key Issues raised for Harare CWG

- Unclear situation of the market system in the affected areas.
- Ongoing economic crisis resulting in existing significant caseload across country.
- CWG partners have raised concerns for lack of funding to respond

Overview: Harmonized Social Cash Transfer (HSCT)

The HSCT is a cash transfer programme established in 2011, implemented through MoPSLSW with support from development partners.

The primary objective of the HSCT unconditional programme is to increase the purchasing power and thus the food consumption of the most food poor and labour constrained members of the population in order to reduce their reliance on risky coping behaviour and improve their socioeconomic status.

The programme is not supported through any legislation but iterated as a policy option within the NSPPF and its management is guided by an operations manual.

The programme has a three stage beneficiary selection process:

- Socio-demographic data collection and registration of all households in the selected districts.
- Application of a Proxy Means Test (PMT) to select most labour constrained poor households
- Verification of selected households for eligibility by community Child Protection Committees (CPC) and DSWOs.

The initial level of benefits were based on 20% of the food poverty threshold in 2012 and adjusted for household size. The benefits have not increased since then. Benefits vary by size of household, as fol-

lows:

One person household = USD10

Two person household = USD15

Three person household = USD20

Four person household or more = USD25

This programme is managed and Implemented by MoPSLSW through its DSWOs, CPCs and Community Childcare Case Workers (CCCW) and non state actors, with technical support from UNICEF.

Southern Africa Regional Technical Cash Working Group (SARTCWG)

The Southern Africa Regional Technical Cash Working Group (SARTCWG), was established in 2017 as a platform of technical professionals and experts dedicated to cash transfers programming in the Southern Africa region, with the overall objectives of streamlining the design, development and implementation of cash and voucher assistance, as well as influencing informed decisions by government and humanitarian actors.

The group strives to improve programs and their ability to benefit vulnerable groups.

The working group is currently active and providing support to the ongoing regional response to Cyclone Idai, in particular supporting the Humanitarian and Development actors undertaking Cash and

Voucher assistance in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique.

It had produced three guidance documents before the onset of the current response.

- Considerations in Determining Cash Transfer Values : Towards Harmonising Cash Transfers Programming in Southern Africa
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- Synthesis of Lessons from the El Nino Response : Cash Transfers Lessons Learnt in Southern Africa
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- Mapping of Financial Service Providers in Cash Transfer Programming in Southern Africa

These documents and all other reports

can be found at the SARTCWG humanitarianresponse.info page at

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/southern-eastern-africa/southern-africa-regional-technical-cash-working-group>

To join the SARTCWG Mailing list please visit :

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/sartcwg/join>

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