

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Partners began the food response although a funding shortfall threatens to derail the programme.
- Continued cases of waterborne diseases remain a concern to partners.
- A spike in Zimbabwean deportees assisted from Botswana and South Africa was noted in October.
- Humanitarian partners have begun initiatives to prepare communities for challenges associated with the rainy season.

### FIGURES

**\$48 MILLION**

shortfall for food assistance programmes.

**\$15 MILLION**

increase in Zimbabwe's humanitarian appeal.

**4,510** Zimbabweans forcibly returned from Botswana and South Africa assisted in October.

### FUNDING

**147 million**

requested (US\$)

**50.6%** funded



An elderly woman and her grandson carry cereal received as part of food assistance. Photo credit Matilda Moyo/OCHA

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## Response to Food Insecurity Begins

### \$48 million shortfall threatens to derail food assistance programme

Partners in Zimbabwe in October began the main response to food insecurity, the Seasonal Targeted Assistance (STA) programme in the two worst affected districts of Mangwe and Zvishavane. Following a request by Government for international support to help meet the needs of the most vulnerable people, partners led by WFP are providing cereals, pulses and oil. In selected areas where there are functioning markets, assistance is in the form of cash transfers. The number of people receiving food assistance will gradually increase to cover more districts until the next harvest at the end of March 2014.

Food assistance partners have budgeted about US\$86 million for the response to the crisis. To date, various donors have contributed \$37.15 million, leaving a shortfall of about \$48.85 million which is urgently required to meet growing needs.

About 2.2 million people - a quarter of the rural population - will require food assistance at the peak of the hunger season between January and March 2014. Through the STA, partners plan to reach 1.8 million people in 43 severely affected districts where the food insecure population exceeds 15 per cent between October 2013 and March 2014. It is anticipated that the balance of 400,000 people will be assisted through other pipelines. In addition, they are located in districts with relatively better opportunities for coping with food insecurity. [Source: FAWG]



A volunteer verifies the identities of those receiving assistance at a food distribution. Photo credit Matilda Moyo/OCHA

### Partners call for sustainable food production methods

Partners on 16 October marked World Food Day, during which they highlighted the power of nutrition to transform people's lives and economies, and the need to make it central to all development efforts. They reaffirmed the need to strengthen international and national solidarity in the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. Recognizing the role played by agriculture on food security and levels of nutrition especially in countries like Zimbabwe, FAO noted that while steady increases in agricultural production and productivity will remain crucial in the coming decades, they will have to be nutrition sensitive with stronger focus on foods such as fruits, vegetables, legumes and animal source foods. Partners concurred that good nutrition depends on healthy diets which require sustainable food systems – along with education, health and sanitation. Appropriate policies, incentives and good governance together hold the key to harnessing healthy food systems in Zimbabwe.

The day's theme this year was "Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition." FAO and partners established World Food Day to be observed annually on 16 October, the anniversary of the organization's founding, with the aim to raise public awareness of the nature and dimensions of the long-term world food problem, and to develop national and international solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty. [Source: FAWG]

## Waterborne Diseases Remain Major Concern

### Water Stress Reported in Midlands

Parts of the Midlands province in October experienced water shortages as levels in major supply dams dwindled, raising concerns about possible waterborne disease outbreaks. Impala Dam, which supplies Shurugwi Town was reported to be 9 per cent full, while Gwenoro Dam, which supplies Gweru City was decommissioned.

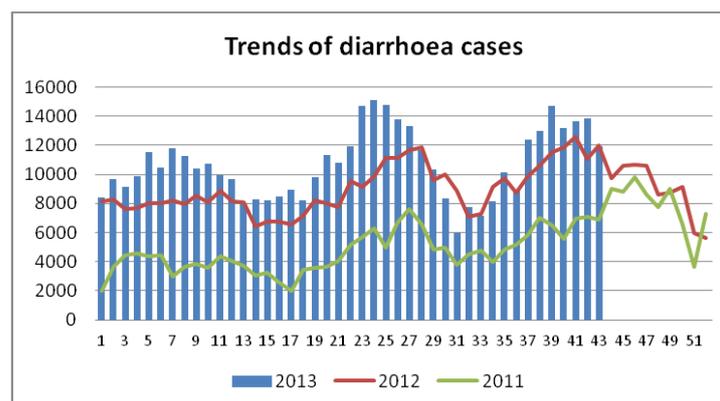
Local authorities in Shurugwi have been rationing water since July 2013, while stakeholders have set up a committee to assess alternative water sources like boreholes. Meanwhile, communities are reported to be using water from disused mines. Oxfam is working with the local authority to distribute point of use water treatment chemicals.

Gweru is currently receiving water from Amapongwane Dam, which has a supply to last 24 months. A water taskforce headed by the Gweru City Council has been established to look at the water situation for Gweru town. [Source: WASH Cluster]

### Suspected typhoid in Chegutu

Suspected typhoid cases continue to be reported, mostly from Mashonaland West province, although there have been no deaths. Cumulative typhoid cases from 1 January to 27 October 2013 stand at 1,466 with 44 new cases been added to the 1,422 reported by 29 September 2013. Partners continue to monitor the situation, test suspected cases and treat patients to avoid the resurgence of an outbreak, with surveillance increasing particularly with the onset of the rainy season when cases are expected to flare up. Erratic water supplies, poor hygiene practices and inadequate sanitation remain the main causes of waterborne diseases. [Source: Health Cluster]

### Dysentery Cases Maintain Steady Increase



By 27 October 2013 a cumulative 38,620 clinical dysentery cases and 55 deaths with a case fatality rate (CFR) of 0.14 per cent had been reported since 1 January 2013. This reflected an increase to the 33,872 cases and 36 deaths with a CFR of 0.10 per cent reported in September 2013. In response partners are

providing general health education, case management and, within the context of water borne diseases, water and sanitation improvements.

Meanwhile, common diarrhea cases continue to be reported and remain a concern. By end of October, cumulative diarrhea cases stood at 459,599 while 421 deaths with a CFR of 0.09 per cent had been reported since 1 January 2013. In comparison, by 29 September 2013, a cumulative 406,968 cases and 366 deaths had been reported with a CFR of 0.09 per cent. [Source: Health Cluster]

*Partners anticipate an increase in waterborne diseases due to continued water shortages and the onset of the rainy season.*

## Increase in Mixed Migration Noted

### Spike in Deportees Assisted from SA and Botswana

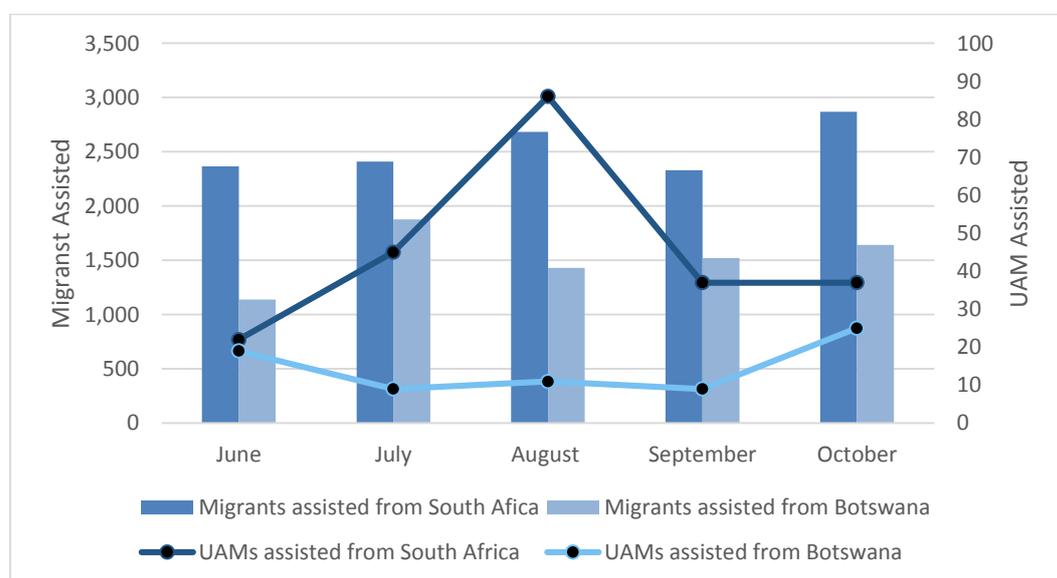
Partners continue to provide immediate humanitarian assistance to migrants forcibly returned from South Africa and Botswana. Altogether 4,510 were assisted from both countries in October, a 17 per cent increase to the 3,842 supported in September.

In October 2,868 deportees were assisted at the Beitbridge Reception and Support center, a 23 per cent increase to the 2,331 assisted in September. Unaccompanied minors assisted remained stable at 37 in both months after a spike to 86 in August. The variation could be attributed to irregular movement associated with the school holidays in Zimbabwe.

A total of 1,642 returnees were assisted at Plumtree Reception and Support Centre in October, up from 1,511 in September and 1,537 in August. Unaccompanied minors assisted at the center however more than doubled to 28 in October, compared to nine in September and 12 in August.

The number of returnees from both countries is expected to increase in the coming months due to the festive season. [Source: Protection Cluster]

*The number of deportees assisted from Botswana and South Africa is projected to rise in the coming months because of the festive season.*



### Steady increase in TCNs assisted at NTRC

The provision of assistance to stranded Third Country Nationals (TCN) continued with 240 migrants being registered and assisted at Nyamapanda Temporary Reception Centre (NTRC) in October, compared to 183 in September. Among those assisted in October were six unaccompanied minors, down from nine in September. Although the number of nationals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has remained constant over the years, there has been a marked decline in the number of migrants from Ethiopia and Somalia. [Source: Protection Cluster]

## In Brief

**Partners mark Global Hand Washing Day.** Commemorations of National Sanitation Week and Global Hand Washing Day took place on 18 October in Uzumba-Maramba-Pfungwe district, Mashonaland East province. UNICEF handed over 15,000 bars of soap for distribution to schools to promote hand washing with and prevent diarrhea. [Source: WASH Cluster]

**Disaster risk reduction update.** Partners in October embarked on disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives to prepare communities for the rainy season and associated disasters.

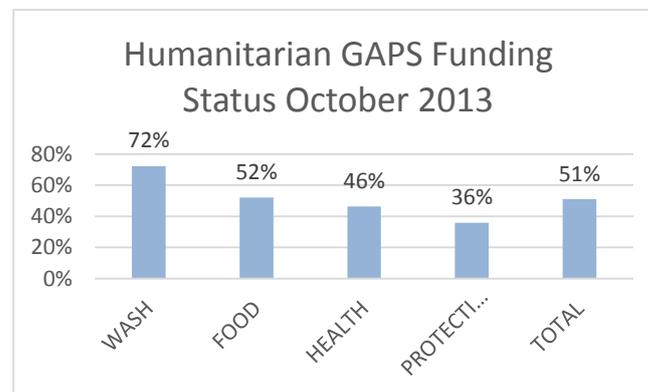
The Environmental Health Alliance (EHA) supported local authorities on disaster preparedness and response, while IOM conducted workshops and ward level consultative meetings. [Sources: WASH & Protection Clusters]

**Rainfall outlook for last quarter of 2013.** The Meteorological Services Department has forecast normal to above normal rainfall for the whole country between October and December 2013. However, Region 3 comprising Matabeleland South, Masvingo, most of Midlands, the extreme southern parts of Manicaland and extreme southern parts of Mashonaland East, is forecast to have normal to below normal rain between January and March 2014. [Agriculture Information Coordination Forum (ACIF) & OCHA]

**Seed availability for 2013/14 season.** Seed houses have a cumulative total of 56,174 MT of maize seed in stock, of which 52,052MT is hybrid maize seed and 4,122 MT are open pollinated maize varieties. This is sufficient to meet the national maize requirement of 35,000MT to 40,000MT and the seed is available in most of the country's districts. [Source: ACIF]

## Funding Update

### Zimbabwe Appeal Revised and 50.6% Funded



Following the mid-year review (MYR) of the Zimbabwe Humanitarian Gaps Appeal, the requirement increased from \$132 million to \$147 million largely because of new food needs. As of 31 October, the revised appeal was 50.6 per cent funded at \$74 million. At the end of September 2013, the appeal reflected 62.2 per cent funding at \$91 million. The reduction in funds reported in September compared to October

is due to \$17 million carried over from 2012 for food assistance, which has been exhausted. Advocacy efforts to attract more funding continue. [Source: FTS]

## Feature

### Media Rewarded for Effective Humanitarian Reporting



The winners of the second Humanitarian Media Awards. From left to right Tapiwa Zivira, Thelma Chikwanha, Butler Nhepure and Michelle Chifamba. Photo credit Matilda Moyo/OCHA

Four Zimbabwean journalists received awards for effective humanitarian reporting at a ceremony hosted by partners on 27 September 2013. Tapiwa Zivira from Newsday received the Online Reporter Award, Michelle Chifamba also from Newsday received the Print Media Award, while Butler Nhepure of the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) got the Broadcast Award and Thelma Chikwanha from the Daily News scooped the Gender Award. Each reporter received an iPad and a certificate. The

awards were introduced in 2012 to encourage greater media coverage of humanitarian

*Journalists have been commended for highlighting humanitarian issues affecting the country.*

issues affecting the country, draw attention to the work of partners and highlight innovative humanitarian projects in Zimbabwe. The Humanitarian Information Facilitation Centre (HIFC), WFP, UNICEF and OCHA supported the awards. *[Source: OCHA]*

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