



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE TO FLOOD VICTIMS

TOKWE MUKORSI DAM DISASTER

Summary

The Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe is appealing for US\$19,694,093.00 from the international community to meet urgent humanitarian needs for affected communities in the Tokwe-Mukorsi Dam Basin. This is needed to evacuate and relocate at risk communities as well as the provision of food, shelter, safe water and other basic needs.

About 20, 000 people within the dam basin are at high risk while another 40 000 downstream are at medium risk of flooding. Concerted efforts are in place through the Civil Protection Organisation to safeguard life and limb as well as to ensure that relocation of at risk communities is undertaken with the utmost priority.

1. Background

- 1.1 Water levels at the Tokwe-Mukorsi Dam, which is currently under construction, rapidly rose to 671 meters above sea level on the 3rd of February 2014 threatening communities within its basin. These communities were to be relocated under a phased relocation plan. The phased relocation plan had intended to relocate a total of 6393 families or about 32 000 people and their 18,764 cattle to make way for the dam.

1.2 The strategic plan was as follows:

- Phase I – 1 247 families in level 660 metres above sea level who are in the high risk area by October 2013
- Phase II – 1 878 families who would be affected when the dam was expected to fill up in October 2014
- Phase III – 3 268 families in the buffer zone who should be removed to protect the dam by October 2015.

1.3 As a result of the current crisis, 2 230 families, which includes the remainder from Phase I and the yet to be implemented Phase II relocation plan, must be evacuated immediately as the incomplete dam is rapidly rising due to heavy incessant rains in the catchment area.

1.4 Given the magnitude of the threat to extensive flooding, His Excellency, the President declared a State of Disaster in regard to the confluence of the southern parts of Chivi and Masvingo Districts, the northern parts of Mwenezi as well as western parts of Chiredzi Districts.

1.5 The Country's Civil Protection Organisation comprising the Cabinet Committee on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Management, the National Civil Protection Committee, the Masvingo Provincial Civil Protection Committee and District Civil Protection Committees of affected districts are tasked with coordination and management of this disaster.

2. Situation Analysis

2.1 The level of the Dam was at 674 meters above sea level as at 9 February 2014 and continues to rise, hence the need to relocate all 2 230 families in the high flood zone. As of the 9th of February 2014, only 36 families out of the targeted 2 230 had been moved. This is because only 20 Lorries had been availed for this exercise and one lorry carries an average of one or two families per trip with their properties over a distance of 220km.

2.2 So far, two deaths have been recorded as a result of the crisis with 49 marooned as of the 7th February 2014.

2.3 Relocation sites in Masangula, Chisase and Chingwizi have been identified and are being utilised.

3. Current Efforts

- 3.1 Government has mobilised transport to ferry the affected families to the relocation sites. The Provincial Administrator for Masvingo has secured seven tractors, three from the District Development Fund (DDF) and four from Tongaat Hullet. The Air Force of Zimbabwe is airlifting the remaining families that are marooned as well as monitoring the river status downstream and providing early warnings. The Zimbabwe Republic Police Sub-Aqua Unit is on site in Ngundu.
- 3.2 The Governments of the Republics of Namibia and Zambia have pledged three helicopters each to assist the Government of Zimbabwe in its efforts. Currently one Namibian helicopter has arrived in Victoria Falls and is refuelling.
- 3.3 The International Organisation for Migration Mission in Zimbabwe (IOM), since the 7th of February 2014, has been complimenting Government efforts with the provision of 707 tarpaulins, 200 standard non food item kits, 20 rolls of plastic sheeting for temporary toilets, 20 000 aqua tablets, 400 blankets, 400 mosquito nets and 3 x 5000 litre collapsible water tanks. Furthermore, starting on the 12th of February 2014, IOM will be supporting the Masvingo Provincial Civil Protection Committee to transport people and their goods from designated pick-up points to the three relocation sites using a 75 seater bus and two ten tonne trucks for a period of ten days.
- 3.4 ZINWA, DDF, Action Faim and Care International are sourcing portable water using bowsers and tanks whilst representatives from USAID, OCHA, and the European Community Humanitarian Aid Office have expressed willingness to assist.

4. Emergency Needs

- 4.1 While these current efforts are appreciated, urgent assistance is still required to avert a potential humanitarian crisis. The identified needs are as follows:

Summary of costs

Items	Estimated costs
Food	660,080.00
Tents	401,400.00
Non food items	314,876.00
Emergency medical supplies and IEC materials'	230,000.00
Logistical Support (for search rescue/evacuation/delivery of relief)	2,554,128.00
Construction of schools (6 Primary & 2 secondary)	9,747,100.00
Urgent relocation land preparation	465,509.00
Urgent infrastructure development (clinics, boreholes and dip tanks)	5,321,000.00
Total	19,694,093.00

4.2 The urgent support of the international community to disaster relief in Zimbabwe is greatly appreciated. For further information, please contact the Department of Civil Protection under the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing.