

ZIMBABWE

Tropical Cyclone Idai

Tropical Cyclone Idai hit eastern Zimbabwe with heavy rains and strong winds on 15-16 March. Manicaland and Masvingo provinces are mostly impacted, facing massive destructing caused by floods and landslides. An estimated number of 12,500 to 15,000 people have been affected overall, with at least 9,600 people (1,600 households) in the hardest hit districts, Chimanimani and Chipinge (Manicaland province). As of 18 March at least 82 people have died, 200 people are injured, thousands are displaced, and many properties, crops and livestock have been damaged and destroyed. More than 200 people are still missing. Assessments are on going and numbers are likely to increase. Priority needs are shelter, WASH, food, livelihood, and health assistance.

IMPACT



NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE



Source: OCHA 18/3/2019

Anticipated scope and scale

Zimbabwe's high levels of food insecurity are very likely to worsen due to lost crops and livestock, **negatively impacting livelihoods** in the medium and long term. An **extension of the ongoing lean season** is expected as high food needs are already immediate. Inadequate health and WASH facilities increase the **risk of waterborne diseases' outbreaks**. The ongoing economic crisis causing severe shortages limits people's coping capacity and the government's ability to holistically respond to the crisis.

Key priorities



+15,000
people affected



no access
to worst affected communities



High shelter needs
homes were damaged and destroyed

Humanitarian constraints



Access and logistics for relief operations are challenging due to the prevailing weather conditions and roads blocked by floodwater and landslides. Some bridges are broken and unusable. Access is most restricted in

Limitations

Information about the affected population, displacement numbers, and sectoral needs segregated by age and gender remains unknown and estimated. Further districts might be affected but assessments are still ongoing. The reports mainly focuses on the hardest hit district of Chimanimani and Chipinge district (Manicaland province). Weather forecasts vary.

Crisis impact

Cyclone Idai hit eastern Zimbabwe on 15 March, after making landfall in Mozambique on 14 March. Strong winds up to 170km per hour and heavy torrential rains caused severe flooding and landslides, affecting at least 12,500 to 15,000 people (2,500 households) in Manicaland and Masvingo province. Chimanimani and Chipinge districts, Manicaland province, are hardest hit accounting for at least 8,000–9,600 people (1,600 households) of the affected population. Further significant and widescale destruction was reported in Mutasa, Buhera, Chikomba, Gutu, Nyanga and Mutare districts, all in Manicaland province (OCHA 17/3/2019; Reuters 18/3/2019; The Standard 17/3/2019; AFP 17/3/2019; OCHA 18/3/2019). Social media and local newspaper report that additional rural households are affected by floods, mudslides, and rockfalls, especially in Chimanimani district. (UNICEF 17/3/2019; AFP 17/3/2019; The Standard 17/3/2019; OCHA 18/3/2019). Masvingo city, Masvingo province was hit by the cyclone in the night of 18 March; however, information on the situation is still lacking (The Standard 17/3/2019; OCHA 18/3/2019).

At least 82 people have died across eastern and southern parts of Zimbabwe. Most casualties are reported in Chimanimani district (Reuters 18/3/2019; OCHA 18/3/2019). Latest government figures from 19 March state a death toll of 98 people (ZBC 19/3/2019). More than 200 people are still missing (Accuweather 18/3/2019; BBC 17/3/2019; UNICEF 17/3/2019; AFP 17/3/2019). 147 people, thought to be government workers, are missing in Chimanimani as their housing complex was engulfed by flash floods (SBS News 18/3/2019). Thousands of people are thought to be displaced by the floods, but estimates on the accurate numbers are lacking (UN News 17/3/2019).

Overall, total numbers provided remain estimations. Accurate estimations are difficult to establish, as many districts remain inaccessible. Total numbers are expected to increase in the next days as assessments are ongoing and more information regarding the full scale of the cyclone's impact will be available once access to affected areas is possible, and flood waters subside (The Standard 17/3/2019; OCHA 17/3/2019; Reuters 18/3/2019; AFP 17/3/2019).

Areas bordering Mozambique, in eastern Manicaland province, are the hardest to reach because floods and landslides block access (The Standard 17/3/2019). Damage to homes and buildings and critical infrastructure, losses of crops and livelihoods, and is reported in the affected districts, though estimates on the scope of damage and destruction are unavailable (The Standard 17/3/2019; UN 17/3/2019; AFP 17/3/2019; OCHA 17/3/2019).

Shelter: The homes of thousands of people are thought to have been affected by flash floods and mudslides. A total estimate of the number of people displaced is lacking. At

least 923 homes of approximately 4,600 to 5,500 people have been destroyed in Manicaland, however more detailed and accurate estimates on shelter impact is unavailable. People residing in rural areas are particularly affected, as their traditional houses are mostly made out of mud (BBC 17/3/2019; The Standard 17/3/2019; AFP 17/3/2019; Reuters 18/3/2019; OCHA 18/3/2019).

Evacuation efforts are ongoing, but high winds are hindering rescue operations (BBC 17/3/2019). Tents have been set up to provide shelter for displaced people.

Chimanimani district: As of 18 March, preliminary assessments conclude that more than 100 houses (providing shelter for 500-600 people) have been damaged in Chimanimani town (BBC 17/3/2019). Many displaced people fled to mountain areas in Chimanimani to seek safety. An unknown number has been trapped there since 15 March as rescue operations cannot reach the area due to ongoing weather conditions (The Standard 17/3/2019; Reuters 18/3/2019).

Around 200 pupils and teaching staff were evacuated from St. Charles Lwanga Secondary School in the mountainous district of Chimanimani (AFP 17/3/2019; BBC 17/3/2019). AFP reports that many displaced people in Chimanimani district, especially from rural areas, including a boarding school, had to walk up to 20km through flooded areas to reach safety and emergency relief items (AFP 17/3/2019).

Chipinge district: At least 330-400 people are homeless as at minimum 67 homes are completely destroyed (The Standard 17/3/2019; Al Jazeera 17/3/2019). Tongogara Refugee Camp, Chipinge district, has been affected. More than 1000 people out of the refugee population of approximately 9,000 were evacuated to a farm in Middle Sabi after at least 168 households have been severely affected and a minimum of 49 houses were completely destroyed. Others have been relocated within the camp temporarily residing in old administration blocks, houses under construction and churches (OCHA 17/3/2019; Newsday 18/6/2018; OCHA 18/3/2019; Bulawayo 24 19/3/2019 Jesuit Refugee Service 19/3/2019).

Other districts: Some 25 homes are reported damaged in Naganga town, Naganga district. In Masvingo city, Masvingo province, a prison roof has been destroyed (Al Jazeera 17/3/2019; BBC 17/3/2019). In Buhera district, the overflow of Marowanwati dam has caused the displacement of many families. The scope of the impact is still unknown (OCHA 18/3/2019).

WASH: The damage to water and sanitation infrastructure is still impossible to assess. However, the access to safe drinking water is likely to be restricted due to inundation and damages of pre-disaster ill-equipped pipes. Therefore, the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhea, as well as mosquito vector illnesses is very high (UNICEF 17/3/2019; UNICEF Accessed 18/03/2019). Due to damage to WASH facilities as a result

of the floods, there is a high risk of a communicable disease outbreak as faeces can contaminate floods and consequently drinking water (OCHA 18/3/2019).

Food: Most of the affected families, IDPs in particular, are in need food assistance (ZIMA 17/3/2019). It is likely that many households' food reserves have been destroyed or damaged, crops have been washed away, and livestock lost. The impact of flooding is negatively impacting food security as well as the nutrition situation. The lean season, typically November to February, is expected to continue (The Zimbabwe Daily 18/3/2019; FEWS NET 2/2019; Al Jazeera 17/3/2019).

Less agricultural products available on local and countrywide markets will further increase prices that have been skyrocketing due to countrywide economic challenges. Food prices were already 50-150% above the five-year average (FEWS NET 2/2019; IPC 2/2019).

As of February 2019, 5.3 million Zimbabweans require food assistance with 2.9 million people, 31% of the total rural population facing IPC-3, Crisis (1.9 million people) or IPC-4, Emergency (1 million) levels of food insecurity (OCHA 29/2/2019; IPC 2/2019).

Livelihoods: In Chimanimani and Chipinge districts agricultural activity forms the main source of income and contributes to Zimbabwe's main agricultural exports, including tea and tobacco (The Zimbabwe Daily 18/3/2019; Al Jazeera 17/3/2019; FEWS NET 2/2019; IPC 2/2019). The loss of crops and livestock as a result of the cyclone will consequently reduce agricultural production and impact people's livelihoods in a medium to long term, reducing purchasing power countrywide and further limit access to available and affordable food.

Even though affected districts comprise only 'slow tobacco growing' areas, the impact of loss in the tobacco harvest will not only be felt by households but, depending on the scale of the impact, will potentially impact the countries' export revenue (Koga 10/2014).

It remains unclear if the Cashel Valley Irrigation Scheme in Chimanimani district has been affected, providing water to 361 hectare of farmland. If interrupted it may negatively affect at least 385 families in the long term (The Herald 11/12/2018).

Many other economic activities in the eastern provinces have been paused due to the floods. Provinces to the west are indirectly impacted because their economic activities depend on Manicaland's road connectivity to suppliers and markets in neighbouring Mozambique. Road travel is severely restricted (The Zimbabwe Daily 18/3/2019; OCHA 18/3/2019).

Health: The impact on health facilities remains unknown. The displaced population is in need of improved access to health services. Only few displaced people have access medical check-ups in emergency relief stations such as in Chimanimani district (AFP

17/3/2019). Military helicopters were taking the injured for medical treatment after weather improved on 17 March (BBC 17/3/2019). The government is dispatching medical supplies to Mutare district but IV fluids and chronic and other essential medicines are needed (ZIMA 17/3/2019; OCHA 18/3/2019). The distribution of medicines in other districts is hampered due to restricted access (OCHA 18/3/2019).

The flooding prevents relatives from burying their deceased family members. The mortuary is full in Chimanimani district due to flood related deaths. There is an heightened health risk, including psychological and trauma related issues, due to the fact that traditional buriers cannot be done (Reuters 18/3/2019; OCHA 18/3/2019).

The Zimbabwe Medical Association (ZIMA) called for volunteers as health personnel is lacking in the affected areas (ZIMA 17/3/2019). Especially post-disaster mental health and trauma related counselling will be needed for the affected population. Health staff is lacking in Zimbabwe, with only 1.23 health workers per 1,000 people countrywide. Shortages of drugs and medical supplies are common throughout the country (News Day 11/09/2018; Council on Foreign Relations 25/01/2018). The economic crisis worsens access to affordable and quality health services, particularly in rural areas.

NFIs: Needs are reported for displaced and non-displaced people as a result of the floods. Even though the scale is unknown, affected households are in need of fuel, gas stoves, blankets, warm clothing, pots and pans and tents and beds (ZIMA 17/3/2019).

Education: Little information about the impact on education is available; however, it must be assumed that some school infrastructure was affected, impacting the learners' schooling (Al Jazeera 17/3/2019). The St. Charles Lwanga Secondary School in the Chimanimani district was closed after 200 people were rescued and two students died following the impact of rockfall (BBC 17/3/2019; The Standard 17/3/2019).

Impact on critical infrastructure

While the full extent of the cyclone's impact cannot be assessed yet, extensive damage to schools and health facilities as well as water and sanitation infrastructure must be assumed (UNICEF 17/3/2019).

Much of the local electricity transmission infrastructure, as well as communication lines, have been destroyed in Manicaland and Masvingo province, affecting health services and economy. Widespread areas affected by the cyclone are without power (BBC 17/3/2019; OCHA 17/3/2019; Reuters 18/3/2019).

Blocked roads and damaged bridges have stranded travellers and businessmen in Chipinge and Chimanimani districts, and hinder trade to neighbouring Mozambique (ZBC 17/03/2019; ERCC 16/3/2019; Al Jazeera 17/3/2019; The Standard 17/3/2019).

Vulnerable groups affected

According to census data from 2012, 48% of the affected population are children under 15 years of age. Children are particularly vulnerable during flooding, due to the higher risk of drowning as well as the risk of being separated from their parents. (OCHA 17/3/2019; Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ 2012)). Young girls are at high risk of child marriage if their household's livelihoods have been affected. In Zimbabwe, 32% of girls are married before the age of 18 and 4% before turning 15 years old (Girls, not Brides, accessed on 18/3/2019).

Pregnant women, children under five, people with disabilities and the chronically ill often face more access issues and are particularly vulnerable to waterborne diseases during and after floods. According to the census data 2012, 52% of the affected population are estimated to be women (OCHA 17/3/2019). People with disabilities are at risk and physical mobility restrictions are very likely to make evacuation more difficult for them.

Rural households are more vulnerable as their access to basic services is already limited and distribution of relief items is less likely in remote, hard to reach areas.

Refugees are among the most vulnerable as their coping capacity is low and their housing infrastructure often less flood-resistant. The majority of the 9,000 refugees in Zimbabwe come from DRC, followed by Mozambique (Goal Stories accessed on 19/3/2019; Newsday 18/6/2018).

Humanitarian and operational constraints

Evacuation and emergency operations face many challenges, as access is severely restricted. Floods, uprooted trees and landslides, especially in the mountainous areas, impede road access. Continuous strong winds make it difficult for helicopters to operate. Air access is needed to areas cut-off due to the floods (The Standard 17/3/2019; ZBC 17/03/2019; ERCC 16/3/2019).

The country's road network has been badly damaged, mostly in Manicaland province. Several bridges, including eight main bridges in Chimanimani, have either been destroyed or are inundated by flood water in the affected districts, impeding humanitarian access. Chimanimani town was cut off and inaccessible on 16 March due to floods and landslides blocking road access. The Chipinge – Mutare road is badly damaged and several buses are stuck at Rutengeny area after the road was washed away (BBC 17/3/2019; Sputnik News 17/3/2019; The Standard 17/3/2019; ERCC 16/3/2019; Al Jazeera 17/3/2019).

The disruption of power and communication networks is further hamper relief operations (ERCC 16/3/2019).

Aggravating factors

Continuous rainfall expected

After Cyclone Idai made landfall in Mozambique on 14 March, eastern Zimbabwe experienced heavy rainfall and strong winds from 15 March onwards. Even though the rainy season just ended (typically November to February) the recent rainfall experienced in Zimbabwe surpassed record levels. Over 16-17 March some areas recorded over 400mm of rain within 24 hours, breaking rainfall records from 1976 (ZBC 17/03/2019; Al Jazeera 17/3/2019).

While the strength of the cyclone has weakened and is developing into a tropical depression, the meteorological services department expects rains to continue throughout the coming days (Bloomberg 16/3/2019; The Standard 17/3/2019; ZBC 17/03/2019; Al Jazeera 17/3/2019). Some weather forecasts are estimating up to 900mm in the next three days for the eastern and southern regions of Zimbabwe, creating significant floods in higher areas and riverine floods downstream. The risk of landslides as well as houses collapsing is increasing with the continual rainfall (Al Jazeera 17/3/2019; The Herald 18/3/2019).

While cyclone Idai was not as long lasting as the storms from 2008 and 2000, short, medium and long-term damages and fatalities recorded might be higher due to increased population living in the area (Bloomberg 16/3/2019; The Standard 17/3/2019).

High levels of food insecurity in flood-affected areas

Several factors including a huge rainfall deficit in the planting season 2018 and economic challenges for farmers have helped create conditions for the deterioration of food security in Zimbabwe (FEWS NET 2/2019, IPC 2/2019; Reuters 23/01/2019, FAO 07/01/2019). The situation has deteriorated significantly since the beginning of 2018 due to shortages of foreign currency, inflation rates, and a severe drought that has damaged crops countrywide.

As shown in table 1, 35% of Zimbabwe's rural population in Chimanimani district and 30% in Chipinge district are currently facing IPC Phase 3 and 4 (IPC 2/2019). A below-average harvest for 2019 (typically from April to June) was already anticipated, owing mainly to dry spells in the last half of 2018 that resulted in fewer cropped areas being planted (typically November to January). Dry conditions also affected pastoralists, who faced higher livestock deaths and a reduced quantity of beef and milk. (FEWS NET 2/2019, IPC 2/2019; Reuters 23/01/2019, FAO 07/01/2019). Another 124,000 people living in rural areas of Chipinge and Chimanimani district, currently in IPC 2, could fall into a critical food insecurity situation, requiring urgent food support because of to their limited coping capacity facing another reduced harvest due to the cyclone's impact (FEWS NET 2/2019;

IPC 2/2019). Consequently, floods will further contribute to the increase of the food gaps and acute malnutrition rates.

Table 1 IPC figures of relevant areas in Zimbabwe (source: IPC 2/2019)

Area	Total rural Population	IPC 3	IPC 4
Chimanimani District	143,242	28,648 (20%)	21,486 (15%)
Chipinge District	317,226	95,168 (30%)	63,445 (20%)
Manicaland Province	1,602,331	332,685 (21%)	224,139 (14%)
Masvingo Province	1,450,839	310,338 (21%)	130,655 (9%)
Rural Zimbabwe	9,420,663	1,891,777 (20%)	987,179 (10%)

Fragile housing and poor road infrastructure

Greater impact on livelihoods and loss of assets are expected in rural areas as they mostly depend on agriculture and live in traditional, flood-prone housing structures. 95% of Chimanimani district's population lives in rural areas, where they are harder to reach by emergency relief (City population accessed 18/3/2019; The Standard 17/3/2019; AFP 17/3/2019; Reuters 18/3/2019).

Zimbabwe's road infrastructure needs reconstruction and reparation. It is the country's bottleneck and main cause for weak agricultural production and poor economic competitiveness. The cyclone's destruction is expected to worsen the country's road network (The Zimbabwe Daily 18/3/2019).

Poor WASH and health services increase the risk of disease outbreak

Zimbabwe's dilapidated health system is under increasing pressure due to years of neglect and underfunding, severe inflation, a shortage of many essential medicines and materials, and continuous and re-occurring doctors' strikes (Associated Press 12/01/2019, New Zimbabwe 10/01/2019, Nehanda Radio 5/01/2019, UNICEF 31/12/2018).

The frequent resurgence of cholera outbreaks due to outdated WASH infrastructure, most recently in September 2018, has put a continuous strain on national health personnel and highlighted the lack of availability for basic medicines such as antibiotics (WHO 25/01/2019, BBC 18/09/2018, ACAPS 18/09/2018). Consequently the health infrastructure is

ill-equipped to deal with the number of people injured in the floods and strong winds. If weather conditions do not improve, this issue will become much more pronounced.

Cholera and typhoid persist because people are forced to drink unsafe water and cannot access adequate toilet facilities (Devidiscourse 10/09/2018, The Herald 27/03/2018). Although data suggests that access to drinking water, particularly in urban areas, has improved, poor sanitation remains a problem countrywide. Open defecation and the unsafe disposal of child faeces only add to flood impact, as effluent water may contaminate boreholes, open wells and other sources of drinking water with faecal matter (The Herald 01/08/2017, UNICEF Accessed 18/03/2019).

Economic Crisis and Social Unrest

Zimbabwe has been in economic crisis since 2016, most recently been characterised by very high inflation and a liquidity crisis. Data indicates that inflation had reached a 10 year high of 42% in December 2018 due to complex interrelations with multiple currencies, their values, and differences in official and black market exchange rates to the US dollar. Economic mismanagement and currency devaluation have resulted in a shortage of fuel and significant price increases for food and basic services, further straining a growing number of food insecure Zimbabweans and affecting entire market systems from wholesalers and importers to retailers. The economic crisis has cut peoples' savings and decreased their purchasing power. Some 80% of Zimbabweans are unemployed, pushing many more people below the poverty line. (International Crisis Group 18/01/2019, Forbes 16/01/2019, The Guardian 23/09/2018; IRIN News 12/2/2019). The inflation rates are expected to continue (FEWS NET 2/2019; IPC 2/2019; IRIN News 12/2/2019).

In mid-January protests in Harare and Bulawayo districts started over fuel price increase amid renewed economic measures taken by the government. They became increasingly violent, resulting in many at least 17 killed, 17 raped, dozens tortured and injured and over 100 arrests (Reuters 16/01/2019; Al Jazeera 23/01/2019; Human Rights Watch 16/01/2019; Human Rights Watch 12/3/2019).

As social tensions are still high, the potential inability of the government to support flood-affected community can likely trigger renewed outbreaks of protests in urban areas.

Key characteristics

Demographic profile: 16.5 million (World Bank 2017)

- 0-14 years: 38.62%
- 15-24 years: 20.42%
- 25-54 years: 32.22%
- 55-64 years: 4.24%
- 65 years and over: 4.5% (CIA Factbook 2018, accessed on 19/3/2019)

Food security figures: 5.3 million people require food assistance with 2.9million people in rural areas and 1.5 million in urban areas are severely food insecure (OCHA 29/2/2019)

Nutrition levels:

- National acute malnutrition prevalence: 3.3 % (FEWS NET 2/2019)
- Countrywide global acute malnutrition (GAM): 2.5% (FEWS NET 2/2019)
- Stunted grow rate among children: 27% (WFP 2018, accessed on 19/3/2019)

Health statistics:

- Maternity mortality rate: 443 deaths/100,000 births (CIA Factbook 2015, accessed on 19/3/2019)
- Deaths under 5 years (per 1000 live births): 50 (WHO 2017)
- Health personnel: 1.23 health workers per 1,000 people (Council on Foreign Relations 25/01/2018)
- Hospital bed density: 1.7 beds/1,000 population (CIA Factbook 2011, accessed on 19/3/2019)
- HIV/AIDS: 1.3 million adults and children in Zimbabwe have the HIV or AIDS virus, with new infection rates of approximately 15% (OCHA 31/07/2018; UNAIDS accessed 19/3/2019)

WASH statistics: Across Zimbabwe, only 54% of people in urban areas have access to basic sanitation services (WHO 2015 data, accessed 18/03/2019)

Poverty: 62.6 percent of Zimbabweans live below the poverty line (WFP 1/2019)

Response capacity

Local and national response capacity

The government-led response is being coordinated by the Department of Civil Protection (DCP) through the National, Provincial and District Civil Protection Committees, with support from several private, local and national emergency services

assisting the humanitarian relief activities (The Standard 17/3/2019; OCHA 17/3/2019). On 16 March, Zimbabwe's president Emmerson Mnangagwa declared a state of disaster in the affected areas (Sputnik News 17/3/2019; OCHA 17/3/2019).

A sub-national flood command centre has been set up to facilitate real-time coordination of the response.

The government has deployed the army on the ground and the military air force to enhance access to cut-off areas. They are also conducting search and rescue activities, mainly by helicopters when weather conditions allow, in affected areas and at-risk communities. (BBC 17/3/2019; The Standard 17/3/2019; OCHA 17/3/2019) The rescue and evacuation operations are coordinated from Chipinge city, as there was less damage recorded (The Standard 17/3/2019;).

Zimbabwe Red Cross Society working in cooperation with the Department of Civil Protection as well as other national and international stakeholders are assisting affected communities. As of 16 March, the Zimbabwe Red Cross has delivered non-food items, including of 300 blankets, 300 tarpaulins, 20 boxes of soap, 49 mosquito nets, 300 buckets, 115 compressible jerry cans, and 15,000 liters of water (The Standard 17/3/2019).

Mass flood awareness campaigns are ongoing through various media platforms and SMS (OCHA 17/3/2019).

International response capacity

OCHA, as well as many international partners, are present in Zimbabwe, supporting coordinated needs assessment and facilitating coordination. The Logistics Cluster, led by WFP, has been activated. Relief items have left warehouse in Harare and are supposed to reach affected communities on 19 March (OCHA 18/3/2019).

While humanitarian partners distribute non-food and food items including temporary shelters, non-food items, Child Protection-related supplies, safe delivery kits and food, local Civil Protection Committees made up of national and international actors are conducting rapid needs assessments to provide a more comprehensive multisector needs and gap analysis (OCHA 17/3/2019).

- In Chimanimani district, ongoing health and nutrition interventions are supported by the Health Development Fund (HDF) (OCHA 17/3/2019).
- In order to monitor floods and heavy winds in Manicaland province, the European Commission activated its Copernicus Emergency Management Service on 18 March (ERCC 18/3/2019)

Population coping mechanisms

Information regarding coping mechanisms of the population affected is lacking; however, vulnerability is high due to limited coping capacity and high food insecurity levels (FEWS NET 2/2019).

Information gaps and needs

- Geographical and gender-segregated information about the affected population and their sectoral and gender-based needs is missing.
- Numbers of evacuated people are not available.
- The total displaced population remains unknown.
- Population data about people with disabilities and their whereabouts are unknown.
- Short, medium and long-term impact on food security levels and livelihoods remain speculative as for the level of damage by the rains and floods on agricultural productivity and livestock cannot yet be accurately assessed.
- Information about the impact of the cyclone in Masvingo is at this point not published. Primary assessment results are expected in the coming days.
- Weather forecasts are conflicting.

Lessons learned

- The Civil Protection Unit was only allocated 2.36 million USD under the 2019 national budget. Many critics see this figure as too low for significant and holistic disaster preparedness and response (The Standard 17/3/2019).
- Investment to improved health and WASH infrastructure can minimise the risk of disease outbreaks significantly.
- Ineffective local flood disaster management committees in Zimbabwe are ill equipped to rapidly respond to floods. Targeted flood emergency response trainings are advised for at risk communities (Dube, Mtapuri, Matunhu 30/5/2018).
- Due to previously reported mismanagement of funds in local authorities, the government stated to put in place stronger monitoring mechanisms to ensure

funds reach beneficiaries in Manicaland and Masvingo provinces (263 Chat 17/3/2019).

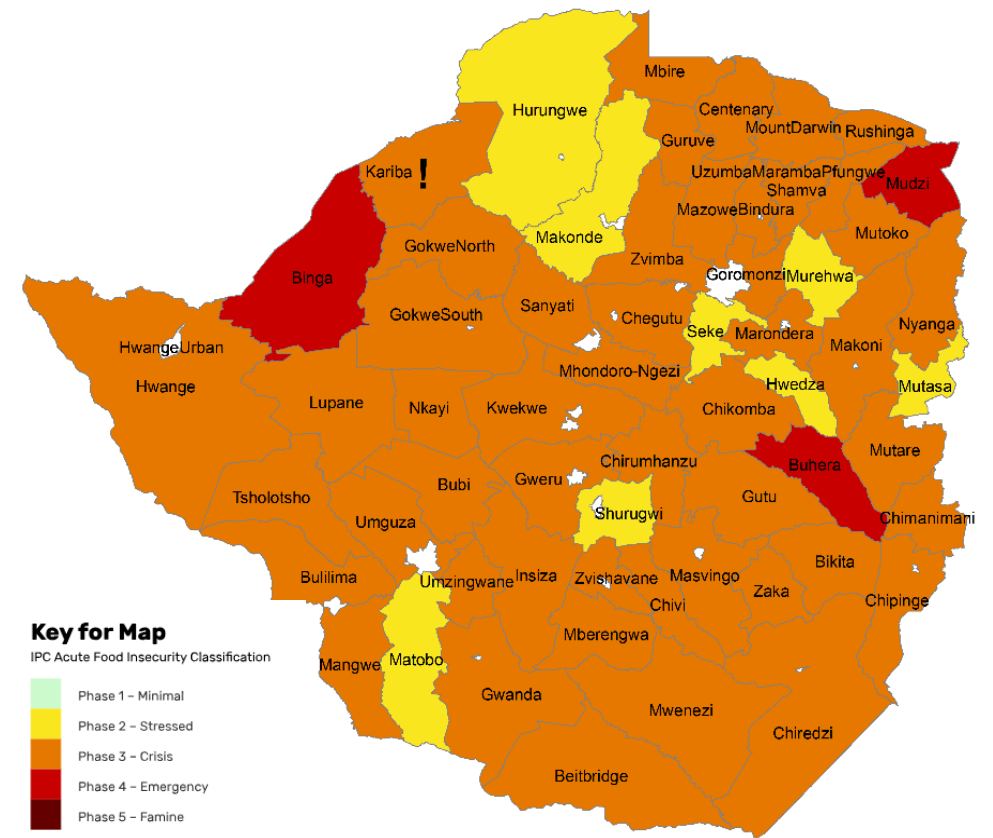
- Improved collaboration between the governments of Mozambique and Zimbabwe could improve preparedness and response for communities at risk in bordering districts.
- As seen from previous flood events in Zimbabwe, it is important to support households with livelihood opportunities in the medium-and long-term to ensure their food security and livelihoods (IFCR 29/4/2015).
- Improved road access to rural areas as well as planning and compliance with safer housing construction standards increase the resilience of many people at risk to floods. (GFDRR 2015).
- Heightened attention should be given to ensure schools are running to not interrupt learners' education for a long term. Otherwise, high dropout rates are more likely.
- It is important to specifically target information and awareness-raising campaigns to communities at risk of floods and spread of diseases, as high illiteracy levels may hinder target communities from effectively utilising the information (GFDRR 2015). Gender-specific vulnerabilities, as well as those of people with disabilities, must be taken into consideration when disseminating information.
- Post-disaster needs assessment to inform the recovery process, as well as monitoring and evaluation, are crucial to inform and improve preparedness measures. Political commitment is however needed for sustainable interventions (GFDRR 2015).

Districts Affected by Cyclone Idai (as of 17/3/2019)



Source: OCHA 18/3/2019

Acute Food Insecurity Situation for Zimbabwe's Rural Population February – May 2019



Key for Map

- IPC Acute Food Insecurity Classification
- Phase 1 – Minimal
 - Phase 2 – Stressed
 - Phase 3 – Crisis
 - Phase 4 – Emergency
 - Phase 5 – Famine
 - Area with inadequate evidence
 - Areas not analyzed
 - Urban/Settlement
 - Area would likely be at least 1 Phase worse without the effects of humanitarian assistance

Key for Callout Boxes

- Population and % in the ipc phase in which the area is classified
- distribution of people in each phase
- 0% 100%
- Confidence of analysis
- Acceptable
 - Medium
 - High

Source: IPC 2/2019