CLIMATE ACTION

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

#SDGs | Advancing Disaster Risk Management | Resilience Building | Humanitarian Response | Recovery | Restoring Local capacity to Adapt to Climate change.
It is encouraging to note that within 10 days of the launch of the appeal USD 116 million was pledged by governments of USA (USD 45 million), UK (USD 60 million), EU (USD 11 million) and the Chinese government pledged to drill/rehabilitate 500 boreholes.

In addition, of the presiding Humanitarian Flash Appeal of USD 294 million that targeted 2.47 million people (including 270,000 people affected by Cyclone Idai) about USD 142 million (48%) have been delivered reaching 2.2 million people with humanitarian response in the areas of food assistance, agriculture, water and sanitation, health, nutrition, and protection.

In addition, to boost UN supported resilience and community infrastructure and to complement UN approach linking humanitarian with development and resilience programming to reduce future dependency, the World Bank has allocated USD 72 million to Cyclone Idai recovery efforts.

The commitment of the United Nations in response to the humanitarian situation has been accentuated with the visits to Zimbabwe of high-level UN Officials from New York and Geneva: Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under Secretary General Mr Mark Lowcock, and his Deputy Ms. Ursula Muller and the Executive Director of WFP David Beasley.

The United Nations recognizes that without rapid climate informed development programmes and ensuring humanitarian-development nexus programming approach, the commitment to end poverty, hunger and achieve the other 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goal and national development plan will not materialize.

Crop and livestock production represent more than half of the total income earned by rural households. In this regard, the United Nations in support of Government initiative has been engaged in resilience building schemes. For example, the UN with USD 77 million received from EU, Sweden and UK has targeted 830,000 people in 23 vulnerable districts with on farm and off farm initiatives. Similarly, with support from the USAID, the UN has been engaged in community asset building through conservation agriculture where communities are assisted with cash and/or food assistance.
In my recent visits to Masvingo, I have had first-hand observed communities engaged in water harvesting and small-scale irrigation using simple infrastructure such as weir-dams and introduction of technologies such as solar powered pumps for horticulture, which is important for household food security and income generation.

The United Nations has also been supporting farmers with crop diversification, through learning and appropriate incentives, to move away from reliance on maize to other crops such as sorghum, sweet potatoes, groundnuts, beans and soya beans which are more drought tolerant and expand this also to resilient livestock varieties such as small ruminants.

The UN has also been engaged supporting other services such as education, water, nutrition, and health. For example, which supporting with essential medicines including antiretroviral treatment, under solar for health, the UN has installed solar power in some 405 health facilities (with Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria support) contributing to enhanced maternal and child health services.

These are some examples that much more can be done to harness and expand solar energy by introducing favourable tax and non-tax incentives.

The United Nations is equally and significantly engaged in longer-term support to socio-economic transformation and poverty reduction, through accelerating reform measures – including anti-corruption efforts – as articulated in the country’s vision 2030 to become upper middle-income country.

Under the 2016-2020 Zimbabwe UN Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF), the UN has been delivering over USD 400 million annually bringing the total delivery to USD 1.5 billion (93.7%) as at 30 June 2019 in a form of various development projects and programmes against the total commitment of USD 1.6 billion to be mobilized by the end of 2020. The United Nations, through the ZUNDAF strategic engagement, contributes to six national result areas of: Food and Nutrition Security; Gender Equality; HIV & AIDS; Poverty Reduction and Value Addition; Public Administration and Governance; and, Social Services and Protection.

Hope this publication provides you with highlights of United Nations and its entities response to the prevailing humanitarian and recovery programmes. With this note, I bid farewell to all our readers and partners as I wind up my nearly five years tour of duty in Zimbabwe by the end of August 2019.

Bishow Parajuli

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Addressing vulnerabilities, building resilience
Recovery efforts rolled out for cyclone Idai
Chimanimani school children recover from Cyclone Idai
Delivering hope to expecting women affected by Cyclone Idai
Restoring local capacity for Cyclone Idai recovery
“This support means life to me”, Cyclone Idai survivor
Airlifting lifesaving relief for Cyclone Idai survivors
Irrigation schemes to smallholder farmers
Adapting to Climate Change at Nyanyadzi
Cash is what keeps Egenia going
Status of funding to humanitarian efforts in Zimbabwe
Addressing vulnerabilities, building resilience

During the second quarter of 2019, the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office in liaison with the Government organized a field visit to Chimanimani from 28 to 29 May 2019 for Ambassadors accredited to Zimbabwe that include Australia, Germany, India, Portugal, South Africa, United Kingdom, and representatives of Embassies of Ireland and Japan. The delegation comprised of Ambassadors H.E Robinson (UK), H.E Bronte Moules (Australia), H.E Dr Thorsten Hutter (Germany), H.E Rungsung Masakui (India), H.E Dr Miguel de Calheiros Velozo (Portugal) and H.E Mphakama Mbete (South Africa) as well as representatives from the embassies of Ireland Mrs. Paula Molloy, and Japan Mr. Kenji Washino, Dr Satoru Myatake and Mr Oliver Smith.

The UN delegation led by UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Bishow Parajuli included Dr. Alex Gasasira, WHO Representative; Dr. Esther Muia, UNFPA Representative; Mr. Robert Tibagwa, UNHCR Representative; Mr. Georges Van Montfort, UNDP Resident Representative; Mr. Mario Lito Malanca, IOM Chief of Mission; Dr. Amina Mohamed, Deputy UNICEF Representative; Mr. Niels Balzer, Deputy WFP Representative; Mr. David Mfote, FAO Assistant Representative.

The Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Public Works, Labour and Social Welfare Mr. Simon Masanga accompanied the delegation throughout the field visit.

The delegation was received and briefed by the Manicaland Minister of State for Provincial Affairs, Dr. Ellen Gwaradzimba, Manicaland Provincial Administrator, Mr. Edgars Seenza, District Administrators and representatives of Line Ministries based in Mutare.

The delegation visited Aboretum Camp in Chimanimani where 280 people are being housed in family tents. They also visited Chimanimani Hospital, Ngangu Primary School as well as Chimanimani Hotel, which provided shelter for hundreds of villagers who were stranded during the cyclone.

During the visit the delegation observed that despite the lingering challenges, with the support provided, life has taken some form of normalcy, all students are in school, health and other public services are operational, communities are striving, and road access has improved.

Going forward, the delegation noted on the need:

• For continued assistance to the Cyclone Idai affected communities by ensuring adequate and timely response to the Humanitarian Flash Appeal to bridge the resource gap.

• To do more on prevention of gender-based violence, sexual harassment and abuse as integral part of the ongoing relief and recovery efforts was highlighted.

• To expedite recovery efforts including rehabilitation of damaged classrooms, health facilities, and particularly urgent shelter support for families that are housed temporarily within households, resettlement of those in temporary camps in line with international standards of building back

Flash Appeal as at Mid July 2019 stood at 48%
better and putting the affected communities’ dignity and preference in to consideration.

The development and humanitarian partners reaffirmed their commitment for continued support to the ongoing relief and recovery efforts in partnership with Government, United Nations, Private Sector, and NGOs.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Team in Zimbabwe also conducted a two-day field visit to UN supported drought relief and recovery efforts in Masvingo Province.

The UN team led by the UN Resident Coordinator in Zimbabwe Mr. Bishow Parajuli included: FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for Southern Africa and Representative to Zimbabwe Mr Alain Onibon; UNDP Resident Representative Mr Georges Van Montfort; UNICEF Representative Ms Leylee Moshiri; WFP Representative Mr. Eddie Rowe and WHO Representative Dr Alex Gasasira.

The team observed first-hand the challenges of the communities affected by drought, assessed progress of the various ongoing UN programmes and projects and called for an increased response to the Revised Humanitarian Flash Appeal. The response to revised Humanitarian Flash Appeal as at Mid July 2019 stood at 48%.

During the visit, the UN Team met with the Provincial Administrator, District Administrators and representatives of Government Ministries, community leaders and interacted with communities.

While noting with serious concern the lack of critical medical supply which stands at 50% at Masvingo provincial hospital due to the current economic challenges, Mr Parajuli said, “the ongoing concerted drought relief, resilience and community asset building efforts by Government, UN, Development Partners, NGOs and communities have shown the way on the need to link humanitarian response and development programmes, there is need to scale up these interventions to ensure communities bounce back better and stronger in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, said the UN Resident Coordinator.

Noting with satisfaction the successful rehabilitation of Stanmore irrigation scheme in Masvingo District with support from Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Swiss Development Cooperation and the European Union, Mr. Onibon said, “the irrigation scheme is testimony that communities can turn around a drought prone area into an oasis and profitable irrigation venture, harvesting cash-crops and staple crops (maize and sorghum) throughout the year, as such there is need to scale up climate smart agriculture and irrigation schemes to address the recurrent drought and effects of climate change.”

Observing piped rural water scheme supported by UNICEF, UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Government of Switzerland in Summerton, Masvingo District which enabled some 1000 people to access safe drinking water, improved sanitation, engage in agricultural related business, Ms Moshiri UNICEF Representative said, “Children have now more time to study as they can access tap water at their doorstep, women are no-more walking long distance to fetch water and the communities hygiene and sanitation has improved as availability of water has enabled them to build toilets.”

Visiting the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund project supported by UNDP, European Union, DFID and Sweden in Chiredzi, Mr. Georges Van Montfort, UNDP Resident Representative said, “the feedlot and silage making project was not only cushioning drought distressed livestock in rural Chiredzi but also some 17,500 households were benefiting from irrigation scheme boosted by solar-panel borehole to withstand effects of climate change.”

Noting the World Food Programme’s approach of community based participatory planning process to humanitarian and asset building programmes, Mr Rowe WFP Representative said, “with the participation of 48 villages, the communities in Chebvute prioritized the construction of weir dam, which has enabled them to harvest different crops, vegetables, raise poultry, cattle and goats and establish fish ponds with 10,000 fingerlings amidst ravaging drought in the area.”

“The community asset building programme is running parallel to ongoing extended lean season targeted food assistance which was reaching some 52,000 people households benefiting from irrigation schemes in rural Chiredzi”.

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17,500

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The World Bank Board of Directors approved a USD 72 million grant from the International Development Association Crisis Response Window to the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project. The financing will help mitigate the impact of Cyclone Idai on the most affected communities of Zimbabwe and lay a foundation for regional recovery and longer-term resilience.

The funds will be disbursed to UNOPS, which will work with other UN Agencies, such as the World Food Program (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) for project implementation. The unprecedented scale of the impact of cyclone Idai on Zimbabwe represents the country’s most devastating recorded natural disaster.
compounding the country’s already fragile humanitarian situation. The cyclone and its aftermath directly impacted 270,000 people; displaced close to 60,000 people; caused estimated direct damages of $622 million; and significantly damaged infrastructure, properties, crops, and livestock, with estimated building-back-better needs of up to $1.1 billion.

“The already acute economic and humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe was further worsened due to the damage inflicted by Cyclone Idai. This warrants an extraordinary and urgent response from the World Bank, and we are engaging partners to mount an effective response that addresses the most critical needs for immediate and sustainable disaster recovery,” said Paul Noumba Um, Country Director for South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The project will target the most affected districts, with a focus on immediate interventions to support livelihoods regeneration and restoration of productive agricultural and livestock capacities and healthcare services, as well as medium-term recovery and resilience-building to rehabilitate critical community infrastructure, such as water and sanitation systems, community schools, roads, and disaster risk mitigation and preparedness.

The World Bank’s support complements the ongoing cyclone response by providing timely and flexible financing that enhances the coping capacity of the affected communities while humanitarian operations continue in tandem through other partners.

“Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project addresses critical issues at the humanitarian-development nexus, combining best practice from both fields. This multi-sectoral approach provides a more integrated, holistic, and sustainable solution and truly illustrates the power of partnerships,” said R. Mukami Kariuki, Country Manager for Zimbabwe.

The project will engage the government’s national, provincial and local structures at the various stages to ensure close coordination and collaboration with the programs of humanitarian and developmental agencies involved in supporting cyclone recovery in Zimbabwe.

Beyond the project just approved by its Board, the World Bank will also mobilize additional trust fund resources to provide technical assistance to the Government of Zimbabwe in setting up an overall programmatic Disaster Recovery and Resilience Framework to help it coordinate the efforts.
Ten-year-old Brian stands out from the sea of students at Dzingire Primary School in Chimanimani because he is not wearing a uniform. “All our belongings were lost when the Cyclone washed our house away,” he says. His father and younger brother were killed when the Cyclone Idai left its trail of destruction in Dzingire village. Across Zimbabwe, it is the first day of the new school term. Despite the familiar sound of children’s chatter and laughter, for the 706 students at the Dzingire Primary School, the term begins like no other. Fifty students, the headmaster and three teachers died when the Cyclone ravaged their village, located near Copa Growth Point - now considered the epicentre of the disaster. Some students were orphaned by the cyclone and many, like Brian, lost immediate family members and neighbours.

The Cyclone struck in the middle of the school term in March 2019, leaving 139 schools in six Districts with damaged infrastructure including classrooms, toilets, water sources and learning materials. Many schools were forced to close prematurely.

UNICEF, working with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, and with funding from donors including the German Government and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is providing textbooks, recreational kits, and tents to create temporary learning spaces, so that schools such as Dzingire Primary School can reopen and provide affected children with an education and sense of normalcy in their lives.

While the repair of damaged schools and safe learning spaces are critical, a recent Rapid Joint Education Needs Assessment (RJENA) carried out by the Education Cluster, led by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, found that 66 per cent of teachers felt that psychosocial support was their greatest need. In response, UNICEF has assisted in providing peer and learner support resource materials for teachers and work books for students to help them cope with the aftermath of the Cyclone Idai. At the most-affected schools, the first few weeks of the new term will focus on psychosocial activities. Teachers at Dzingire Primary School underwent extensive training prior to the opening of school to prepare them for this.

Simeon Dhlwiayo teaches Grade 4A at Dzingire. His class lost four pupils in the Cyclone, and he is struggling to grapple with the loss of his students, his headmaster and teaching colleagues. “It is difficult to come back to school today to see these empty spaces in my classroom. The children may not say anything, but you can tell that they are in pain,” he says. “Last term, the headmaster and I had discussed several projects that we wanted to undertake this term. Now we feel lost because our leader has gone.”

Nine-year-old Nyasha is a student in Mr Dhlwiayo’s class. He had to walk 2km uphill to get to school. In the past, his Dad would give him a lift to school, but his father was killed when his car was washed away by the river as he drove home to his family. They found the car 10km downstream. “Today is sad for me also because my friend Keletso, who used to sit in my group in class, is gone - his whole family was washed away by the Cyclone,” says Nyasha. “I miss him.”

**Chimanimani school children recover from Cyclone Idai**

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**50 students, headmaster and 3 teachers died due to Cyclone Idai.**
For Chenai Chikore (not her real name for privacy) resident of Muchadziya in Chimanimani was woken by wet bed linen on the mat she was lying on. On getting up she realized that it had been raining so heavily that her house was rapidly being flooded. What she did not know is that Cyclone Idai had hit Chimanimani.

“When I realized our house was flooding I decided to take my children outside but I didn’t know where I was going and what the situation was like outside; it was just a leap of faith,” recalls Chenai with tears in her eyes. “I was very relieved when I got outside and found they were some villagers who had torchlights who were taking people to safety. I asked them to take my children first.”

When the cyclone finally calmed down and the rain stopped, Chenai who was 38 weeks pregnant, found that her home had been completely swept away, together with all her belongings. She also lost baby clothing bought in preparation for delivery.

Working with the Ministry of Health and Child Care - Manicaland Province, UNFPA has supported the transportation of pregnant women from cyclone affected areas to safer Maternity Waiting Homes where they can access Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care.

Part of the package provided by UNFPA included cooking fuel, utensils and bedding for pregnant and lactating women admitted to Maternity Waiting Homes.

Chenai was airlifted on 5 April 2019 and admitted at Mutambara Hospital Maternity Waiting Home where she stayed until 13 April 2019 when she delivered a bouncing baby boy. She benefited from a Mama Kit that provided, among other things, warm clothing for her new born baby.

Life will never be the same for Brian, Nyasha and the other students and teachers at Dzingire Primary School. However, with timely psychosocial interventions at schools in the affected Districts, they will slowly be able to build the resilience needed to live past this tragedy.

The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education has deployed trained staff members to provide psychosocial support to raise the children's spirits. “These children and their teachers have all gone through an extremely traumatic experience,” says Charles Mavhunze, a teacher who has been trained to conduct psychosocial sessions with children and teachers at the school. “These group activities are an attempt to draw them out, so they can begin to talk about their fears and anxieties in a safe space.”

Delivering hope to expecting women affected by Cyclone Idai

© UNFPA
Over the years of working in such situations, the ILO has enhanced its capacity in recovery activities building on humanitarian programmes and seeking to catalyse sustainable development opportunities.

This is done through using the Employment Intensive Investment Approach, a methodology that links infrastructure development with employment creation, poverty reduction and local economic and social development as well as environmental measures for natural resources restoration, management and climate change adaptation.

In using local labour and resources it creates much needed employment and income, reduces costs, saves foreign currency and supports local industry while increasing the capacity of local institutions.

The ILO's recovery involvement has often focused on restoring the capacity of national institutions and communities to recover from crisis, revitalise the economy and prevent crisis relapses.

The key role of the ILO in the recovery has been to create employment opportunities and livelihoods to facilitate reintegration.

Following the aftermath of cyclone Idai in Zimbabwe, in particular in Manicaland, the ILO is working hand in hand with a group of volunteers, mostly civil, water, roads, geotechnical and sanitation engineers and land surveyors, within and outside Zimbabwe, to contribute towards disaster risk reduction and reconstruction efforts as part of the aftermath of the cyclone.

These Zimbabweans living in Diaspora and in country, who have temporarily called themselves ‘Engineers Voluntary Consortium’, wish to dedicate their time...
towards finding solutions to minimize mostly the flooding, landslides related hazards and contribute towards re-designing and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure.

Towards that end, the team of volunteers aims to:

• Assist in gathering data and information on the extent of the damage caused by the cyclone, and strengthen early warning systems in the event of a repeat and climate change.

• Provide expertise, tools and knowledge on the use of new technologies such as earth observation, drones and mobile phone technology in data gathering, mapping, and general land use planning, for human settlements and reconstruction.

• Recommend steps to be taken in the immediate, mid and long-term to avoid further loss of lives, disease outbreaks, damage to infrastructure, environment, agriculture and other ecosystems in line with the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction.

• Contribute towards re-thinking, climate resilient re-design and reconstruction to ensure that sustainable, safe and affordable infrastructure (water and sanitation, energy sources, telecommunications, roads and bridges) and superstructures are provided in the affected areas.

• Enhance creation of employment opportunities for cyclone victims though participation in the reconstruction of damaged public infrastructure in order to earn income and revive their livelihoods.

• Share knowledge and lessons learnt within the region, Africa and beyond.

To kick-start the process, the team of volunteering engineers, accompanied by the ILO Director for Zimbabwe and Namibia paid a courtesy call to the Manicaland Provincial Coordinator, Mr. Edgar Seenza, who informed the team of the institutional framework for recovery and post-disaster reconstruction efforts.

Mr Seenza indicated that the district has formed 19 committees looking into different aspects of the reconstruction effort and each of these committees has conducted or is in the process of conducting in-depth assessments that will inform the post-disaster reconstruction plan. The Manicaland Provincial Coordinator introduced some of the chairs of these committees to the ILO team in order to kick-start bilateral meetings.

Following successful bilateral meetings, the team of ILO volunteers conducted field visit to affected areas in collaboration with partners (for example the Chimanimani assessment of roads was conducted jointly with UNOPS and Government technical staff based in the province) and in liaison with those based in Chimanimani and Chipinge districts.

“This support means life to me”, Cyclone Idai survivor

The high-density suburb of Ngangu in Chimanimani which used to be a hive of activity with traders bringing wares from neighbouring Mozambique and farmers supplying markets as far as Harare has been devastated by the effects of Cyclone Idai. The cyclone struck the area with heavy rains and violent winds. Both homes and livelihoods were destroyed, leaving residents seeking refuge in Collective Centres such as churches, schools and shops. Those whose homes remained standing are also supporting friends and relatives.
The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) received supplies for internally displaced persons and refugees affected by Cyclone Idai.

The airlift, which arrived at Robert G. Mugabe International Airport, included blankets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, mosquito nets, solar lamps, sanitary pads and soap.

Airlifting lifesaving relief for Cyclone Idai survivors

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) received supplies for internally displaced persons and refugees affected by Cyclone Idai.

Sarafina Shohwa of Ngangu Extension had just given birth when the disaster struck. The cyclone destroyed the house that she built with her husband and sadly her husband and four-year-old son also lost their lives in the disaster. She managed to escape with her 2-week-old baby. The Collective Centre in Chimanimani Golf Club is what she now calls home, together with 63 other people who also lost their homes and belongings in Cyclone Idai and are temporarily housed there. “I came here on the night the cyclone destroyed my home, I only managed to escape with my baby. We slept here without blankets. I feared for my child’s health since this area is very cold. I needed blankets, clothes to wear and soap to wash and bath. I had nothing,” said 34-year-old Sarafina.

The United Nations International Organisation for Migration (IOM) together with Econet Zimbabwe distributed non-food item kits, clothes and shoes to 24 households living at the club. An additional 56 households were supported at other Collective Centres in Chimanimani. “Their support means life to me, it came when I feared losing my child to the cold. I received blankets, clothes, kitchen utensils, soap and candles,” narrated Sarafina.

IOM Zimbabwe continues to reach out to Cyclone Idai affected communities as it receives positive response to its appeal for support from its funding partners. Resources received from the UN Emergency Response Fund and the Government of Japan supported the procurement of a 43-ton consignment with 8,000 tarpaulins, 4,800 mosquito nets and 2,400 buckets.

The tarpaulins assisted total of 4000 families with emergency shelter, enabling them to carry out basic repairs to their partially damaged houses. Mosquito nets and buckets will assist 2400 families who lost key household items in targeted disaster affected areas.

95% survivors seeking shelter

Emergency Response Fund and the Government of Japan supported the procurement of a 43-ton consignment with

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From page 10
destined for Tongogara refugee camp, where 1200 families had their homes destroyed or severely damaged by the cyclone.

Zimbabwe hosts some 20,000 refugees and asylum-seekers mainly in Tongogara Refugee Camp where some 1060 houses were damaged by Cyclone Idai affecting some 5,300 people. The water and sanitary infrastructure was severely affected leading to a shortage of clean drinking water. UNHCR is prioritising the repair of this system and the construction of stronger homes for refugees in the camp so they can withstand further such storms in the future.

This followed on from a previous consignment of emergency relief items for Zimbabweans, which arrived on 31 March 2019. UNHCR handed over to Government some 80 MT relief items, including family tents, plastic tarpaulins, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, solar lamps and kitchen sets to support 10,000 Zimbabweans affected by Cyclone Idai.

“The devastating cyclone has left people in dire need of humanitarian support,” said UNHCR Country Representative Robert Tibagwa while handing over the airlifted relief items to Hon. Sekai Nzenza, Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare at Robert Mugabe International Airport. The minister noted that “UNHCR supplies will help provide shelter and basic items to survivors, including women and children, as they have lost everything.”

UNHCR is part of the humanitarian team working in close collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe and other humanitarian partners to ensure people receive the required assistance and are protected from risks and dangers. UNHCR has also deployed a team of emergency experts to support relief efforts.

UNHCR expressed its gratitude to its corporate partner International Humanitarian City (IHC) which donated the two [2] aid flights. The airlifts are part of UNHCR efforts to provide aid to thousands of people in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. These supplies are already being distributed in Chipinge and Chiranimani.

A follow-up visit by the Southern Africa Regional Bureau Director, Mr Valentin Tapsoba to Tongogara Refugee Camp and Chiranimani District was conducted in solidarity with the cyclone affected communities. The delegation met with the local Member of Parliament Hon. Joshua Sacco and the Acting District Administrator who gave an update of the emergency response for the district.

Emphasis was on recovery and resilience building as the district transitions from emergency response to recovery and reconstruction. An appeal was made towards infrastructural development. The head of the delegation for UNHCR, Mr Valentin Tapsoba reiterated the scope of UNHCR’s intervention as part of solidarity with Zimbabweans who have hosted refugees for many years.

Irrigation schemes to smallholder farmers

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) handed over the works that were supported at 14 rehabilitated irrigation schemes to 1 519 benefiting smallholder farmers in Masvingo Province.

This marks the conclusion of the Smallholder Irrigation Programme (SIP) which was funded by The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) totalling 6 Million Swiss Francs and implemented since December 2014.
Irrigation development is a strategic move in agriculture. It allows all year round production and builds farmers’ resilience. Irrigation development promotes business development in areas off farm thus increasing employment for youth and women. I would urge you to ensure sustainability of operations and embark on market driven production and not producing for the sake of producing,” added the minister.

Speaking at the handover, the FAO Sub-regional Coordinator for Southern Africa and Country Representative to Zimbabwe, a.i., Alain Onibon, said Stanmore B Irrigation Scheme was testimony that there was a solution to the droughts which have become more recurrent and drastic in the country.

“Droughts have become a big problem, but what you are doing on this irrigation scheme is that you are building more than your own livelihoods. What you are demonstrating on this irrigation scheme is that you are showing the country that we have a solution to the droughts which have become more recurrent and drastic in the country.

“Droughts have become a big problem, but what you are doing on this irrigation scheme is that you are building more than your own livelihoods. What you are demonstrating on this irrigation scheme is that you are showing the country that we have a solution to the droughts which have become more recurrent and drastic in the country.

Onibon said the irrigation schemes had resident farm managers, had gone into win-win business relationships with input suppliers and off-takers of produce, were linked to financial institutions and had entered commercially viable ventures which would ensure sustainability. He added that irrigation development was vital for the dry provinces of the country and urged farmers to have a sense of ownership and ensure that they maintain the schemes.

A representative from SDC, Sharon Murinda, also underlined the importance of irrigation in view of climate change. “The construction and handing over of these irrigation schemes gives practical expression of the Swiss Government’s commitment to putting food security and agriculture at the centre of development in Zimbabwe. Irrigation in itself is an act of diversifying the agriculture sector away from rain-fed farming methods especially with challenges brought about by climate change,” she said.

SIP was funded by SDC (6 Million Swiss Francs) and the European Union (6 Million Euro) to rehabilitate 34 irrigation schemes. SDC facilitated the rehabilitation of 14 irrigation schemes in Masvingo Province while the EU funded the rehabilitation of 20 irrigation schemes in Manicaland and Matabeleland South (10 irrigation schemes each). The overall objective of the irrigation project is to improve income, food and nutrition security of smallholder communal farmers involved in small scale irrigation in Zimbabwe.
Adapting to Climate Change at Nyanyadzi

The Nyanyadzi Irrigation scheme is located in the dry area of Chimanimani, Natural Region V and has been the communities’ main agricultural source of water for several decades. The increasing frequency of unpredictable weather, particularly drought and heavy rainfall events, have worsened environmental degradation caused by streambank cultivation, deforestation and overgrazing. This has accelerated soil erosion in the area and the transportation of silt into the schemes water canals. In 2000, the scheme became dysfunctional after Cyclone Eline due to heavy rains which caused severe structural damage:

“The first Cyclone in 2000, destroyed our canals and we were unable to farm for five years. The canals were blocked with sand and it was also washed onto our farms”. - Mrs Mabika

The farmers have over the years tried to build silt traps on their own, however due to a lack of expertise and funds, they were easily destroyed:

“After each rainy season, all the canals would be blocked with silt and rocks. Farming would come to a standstill without access to water. We would come together as the farmers and try to clean the canals by ourselves, but it would take us a long time. It could take 2-3 months to clear the canals and in that time crops like maize would dry out,” said Samuel.

UNDP, Oxfam and its partners worked with the community of Nyanyadzi to rehabilitate the scheme to better withstand the effects of heavy rainfall and siltation. In 2019, the scheme was hit by Cyclone Idai, however it suffered minimal damage due to silt traps which were built to capture and reduce the amount of silt washed into the canals.

After Cyclone Idai, the farmers of Nyanyadzi came together to clear a 600m section of canal. Each farmer contributed $5 per acre of land they were farming to hire 38 men who cleared the canal of silt and rocks. The work took less than a month to complete and the farming season was only briefly interrupted. This season, 176 hectares of land have been cultivated with sugar beans, tomatoes, okra, onions and vegetables.

“Because of the silt traps that were built, right now we have our tomatoes and beans in the field. We have a lot of water and have been able to move forward.” – Mrs Mabika.
Cash is what keeps Egenia going

They say it never rains but pours. Unfortunately for the smallholder farmer and mother of four in Mudzi, Zimbabwe, it neither rained nor poured when she most needed it to.

Farming is the sole source of income for Egenia and her family. When the drought hit Mudzi, she found herself eligible for WFP’s Lean Season Assistance Programme, which helps vulnerable people in the most drought-affected districts to meet their essential needs.

The cash she receives empowers Egenia to make choices that are best for her family. “It goes far beyond food,” she says. “After buying food, I can also pay my daughter’s school fees.”

The primary school is seeing better attendance. And the community too benefits from the cash injection: it supports economic growth and boosts employment in the local shops, which count Egenia and 46,000 other beneficiaries as their customers.

In Mudzi, drought notwithstanding, the seeds of a better future are growing roots.

In addition to the USD 116 million pledged under the Revised Humanitarian Appeal launched on the 6th of August 2019; the following shows funding status to humanitarian efforts in Zimbabwe under the previous Appeal covering Jan-July 2019.