

Interim Report

Prepared for The Isle of Man Government



Country: Zimbabwe, Chipinge and Mwenzi

Project title: Preparing for and responding to cyclical shocks (extreme weather, economic and political) in Chipinge and Mwenzi, including diversifying food and income opportunities

Project Code: SG003.17

Grant Period: July 2018 – July 2020

Grant Amount: £69,765

Summary

An initial change request was agreed by Isle of Man Government in August 2018. After this The activity funded through this grant and the wider programme faced a number of significant issues caused by the changing context in-country but broadly grant activity has been delivered as planned and has achieved its intended impact, reaching the target number of beneficiaries. Expenditure is 20% lower than expected. Due to the direct and indirect impact of Cyclone Idai, a Cholera outbreak and changing context in-country the need on the ground has changed and much of the programmatic activity that had been scheduled is no longer appropriate so has been cancelled or reduced. To ensure sustainable food security in the changed context a request has been made to Isle of Man Government to reallocate the remaining grant for the purpose of cash assistance in year two (please see attached proposal).

Key issues

- > Elections at the end of August saw large rallies take place around the country which saw ZRCS attend to provide first aid, thus putting some activities on hold. These rallies were attended by target beneficiaries which caused further delays
- > Fuel prices doubled in January 2019 leading to rioting and violence, reducing staff resource at our partner national society ZRCS because they were needed to deliver Emergency first aid support
- > The emergence of a Cholera outbreak meant that hygiene promotion activity was urgently prioritised across the wider programme
- > Tropical Cyclone Idai caused heavy flooding and winds, resulting in the significant destruction of infrastructure and crops and loss of livestock. The effects of Idai have worsened harvest prospects and destroyed livelihoods mainly in Chimanimani and Chipinge Districts
- > Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are now present across most of the country due to the delayed and poor harvest, the continued declining macroeconomic situation, and the effects of Tropical Cyclone Idai
- > Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are most likely to continue in deficit producing areas and areas facing poor harvests
- > The main harvest started atypically late in April 2019 due to the delayed start of season and continued through June. Current crop estimates indicate the harvest will be below average across all provinces due to the poor performance of the 2018/19 rainfall season and effects of Tropical Cyclone Idai in eastern areas

- > Typical seasonal livelihoods such as crop sales, casual labour, and self-employment activities and livestock sales will most likely remain constrained through September; negatively impacting food access
- > The volatile macroeconomic situation continues to deteriorate, characterized by increasing; foreign exchange shortages, variable exchange rates, staple and non-staple food prices, and fuel shortages
- > Due to all these issues much of the programmatic work due to take place in 2019 has been cancelled as we prepare to reach the same beneficiaries with an Emergency Cash Response

BRC staff update

In the original proposal Evelyn Moorhead was the Country Manager, she left in September 2017 and was replaced with Alexander Pendry from Sept 2017 to June 2019 where we phased the role from being UK based to being based in Harare.

The Country Cluster Manager is now Marta Alejano who started working in Harare from Sept 2018 and has had an extended hand over with Alex Pendry.

Marta has been working for the Red Cross Movement over ten years now and two of those years was being a Training focal point for the IFRC livelihoods Resource Centre as well as being the Head of Delegation for Mozambique.

Throughout the changes above the following staff remained in place. Lydia Keegal remained as the Regional Officer for Southern Africa as well as numerous advisors such as Jo Cox (Health Advisor), Caroline Zastiral (Disaster Risk Reduction), Andra Gulei (FSL), Geors Richards (PMEAL) and Caroline Von Brauchitsch (Logs). All of whom review the reports supplied by ZRCS quarterly and assist ZRCS where needed.

Project activities

Objective 2: communities are organised and equipped to take action and effectively partner with local government and key stakeholders to prepare and respond to shocks

Cook stove construction training & Cook stove rollout – promotion campaign

Training took place in June 2018 in both districts of lead farmers, volunteers and other community members on the construction of cookstoves. 630 people were reached with these campaigns. A



total of 68 cook stoves were constructed that month, with a cumulative constructed 100.

The cook stoves campaigns were done in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs' on the International Family Day Commemoration. Other campaigns had also been done before the commemorations.

Since then the roll out has done very well with lead farmers and volunteers assisting people within their wards and externally to construct cookstoves.

Early Warning Systems training & Establishment of Community Disaster Management Committees (CDMC):

The CDMC were established and now meet quarterly, even running simulation training for other community members.

The CDMC and other volunteers were put to work multiple times during this reporting period.

- > Cholera awareness
- > Heavy rains that lead to flooding towards the end of 2018
- > Before, during and after the Cyclone Idai response. They used funds accessible to them through this programme to assist families affected by heavy rains to get tarps and blankets.

Objective 3: vulnerable households and groups have diversified and improved their access to food and income opportunities to protect them from shocks.

Climate smart agricultural training

The training was completed in December 2018 with the purpose of promoting the aspects of Climate Smart Agriculture for small scale farmers considering three critical aspects: Economic, Social and Environmental, with the aim of addressing food security. The most fundamental issue of Smart Agriculture is to empower the local communities' adaptation capacities there by building the most needed resilience to Climate shocks.

The objectives of the training were;

- 1) To equip participants with skills to improve management of farms, crops, livestock and aquaculture to balance food security and livelihoods
- 2) To improve ecosystem and landscape management to conserve eco system services that are important for food security, agricultural development, adaptation and mitigation

The training took place at Kondo primary school. A total of 30 people were trained across the three wards. The training was being facilitated by the officials from the Ministry of Agriculture. Climate Smart Agriculture was referred to as the agricultural practise that sustainably increase productivity and system resilience. The approach helps to guide procedures needed to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate.

Setting up of local demo plots

Demonstration plots (Chipinge)

A total of three demonstration plots have been established across the three wards namely Kondo, Chibuwe and Checheche one in each ward for Chipinge. These demonstrations were established to ensure that the lead farmers can demonstrate the best farming practise methods through the Climate Smart Agriculture approach and to show other community members. The climate Smart Agriculture approach is governed by two main approaches, one which ensures that food security is attained and secondly climate change conscious is observed.



One of the lead farmers demonstrating how to do organic fertilizer on to the basins

The demonstration plots were supported with field tools and

seeds. General community members gathered in the demo plots to witness how they can improve their farming techniques. A total of 167 people gathered across the demo plots in all three wards as field days to get information on how to improve their farming and to have knowledge about the upcoming El Nino drought which is significantly affecting the 2018 – 2019 farming season.

Demonstration plots (Mwenezi)

The field day was attended by project and non-project beneficiaries including village heads. The Agritex officer for the area pointed out clearly the advantages of using mulching in conservation agriculture and the advantages using organic fertilizers over chemical fertilizers. The idea of growing drought resistant crops like millet and sorghum was also emphasized as Mwenezi District lies in agro ecological region five which receives very little rainfall. Up to December 2018 the area had not received any rains to show that the area is very dry, and hybrids are not the best option. The Lead farmers there had to learn from each other through field days.



A mulched plot under Conservation Agriculture in ward 14

Cash for Seeds

This activity has been cancelled and following completion of a cash feasibility report and we will be distributing cash for food by September.

We would have liked to have done this sooner, but we have been supporting ZRCS with another cash response in the North through a different consortium but also the currency issues in-country has presented challenges.

Healthy harvest training

Unfortunately, the roll out of the healthy harvest manual happened in February 2018, prior to the funds from Isle of Man being available. Therefore, they were covered by other funds.

Keyhole garden training and establishment of keyhole gardens and support to communities



The keyhole gardens roll out campaigns in all of the six wards were completed. During the Women Affairs' International Family Day Commemoration Ward Eight volunteers (Mwenezi District) came to visit and participate in the commemorations which were being done in Ward Five. The ZRCS volunteers took an opportunity to cascade the health harvest concept, hence the 4-star diet was presented by the volunteers.

Timeframe

In Quarter three, and Quarter four of 2018, many activities were on track despite many challenges facing the team on the ground. However, in January 2019 the price of fuel tripled over night, the price of goods also increased coupled with a cholera outbreak it was decided to put a hold on activities run by ZRCS HQ so as to best decide how to go forward. Then Cyclone Idai hit and all of ZRCS' resources were redirected to provide urgent support, this had significant impact on the Community Resilience areas, especially in Chipinge - so the beneficiaries received support but not as part of planned grant activity.

Replication

The keyhole gardens and the cookstoves have both been popular and effective, we have seen both initiatives being replicated outside of the programme and our lead farmers have been assisting in different wards with the help of local charities to pay their transport. The cookstoves have been so successful that the University of Namibia are looking to develop multiple case studies on them to identify all the benefits and how best the design can be replicated in other locations.

Beneficiaries

	Target	Achieved
Direct	1,600HH	5,000HH
Indirect	na	11,905

Community involvement

ZRCS have been operating this programme based on a proven successful model where there is one staff member based in the area and then volunteers are recruited from the community to help carry out the scheduled programme activity. So, the local community is at the heart of all the work that has been done.

More specifically for the planning, implementation and learning, we are in constant communication with the communities to ensure that we are incorporating their feedback to ensure we are doing what is best for them. We are holding regular community meetings so that their voice is fed back into the ongoing planning as well as giving insight of the impact of on-going activities. Once we have collected data and feedback from all the communities we analyse it carefully and update relevant communities. This gives us the ability to compare and contrast success and challenges between various community groups to ensure learning is shared.

Liaison with relevant authorities

Local authorities play a key role in the development of the plans we put forward. We work with them as well as communities to develop a bigger picture of the need in an area.

Local authorities have been a constant focal point and stakeholder, over the last year we have seen some communities now giving their feedback to local authorities who then passed it on to us.

We also work with various ministries to share best practise and learning. The Department of Agritex (Ministry of Agriculture) share training sessions with us and support on various activities such as demo plots.

Sustainability

The work with the local authorities will really help make this programme sustainable, forging those connections with communities and the relative people they need to be in contact with to maintain the hardware and trainings.

The programme teaches local farmers techniques in developing key hole gardens, climate smart agriculture and then encourages them to spread that knowledge not only to their immediate

communities but onwards to others in their ward and surrounding district. This will see dissemination of skills and knowledge beyond the direct beneficiaries.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In September 2018 we conducted a mid-year review. The objective of the review was to review progress to date and take stock of the relevance, appropriateness, effectiveness, coverage, potential impact, and sustainability of the project.

Specifically, the evaluation provided the project team a basis for identifying appropriate actions to:

- > address issues or problems in design, implementation and management
- > reinforced initiatives that demonstrate the potential for success

The review was carried out with technical support from BRC. Stakeholders were consulted through focus group discussion. These included the District Administrators, Rural District Council Chief Executive Officers, Social Welfare, Ministry of Health (DEHO), Department of Agritex, and District Development Fund (DDF) and others. The team also had a Project Review workshop with the volunteers in the two districts. An opportunity was also taken to hold Focus Group Discussions with Hospital Garden Committees, Water Point Committees and Health clubs.

Outcome one

The findings of the Review in brief were that although progress under Outcome one was good with the communities being aware of their hazards, there was still need to do more on the CAPS so that all the wards will have their micro projects done by the end of the year. It also found that the cookstoves and keyhole gardens had good uptake.

Outcome two

It was noted under this outcome that it was progressing well. A Variety of committees had been established, were well-organized, active, very well linked to relevant government stakeholders. It was however noted that there was need for further trainings on the CDMCs which they requested.

Outcome three

There were more farmers trained as lead farmers compared to the original targets. The COE were progressing well although it was noted that there was a potential for improving the water supply by solarising the borehole and the potential for a hatchery at the center to serve the community income generating projects.

Outcome four

It was noted that the collaborative effort between ZRCS, contractors, beneficiaries and local council and district stakeholders has achieved impressive results in areas that previously had very low access to sanitation facilities.

All the committees appeared to be active and engaged in collecting funds from the community to

contribute to the boreholes' upkeep with the committees demonstrating savings of the order \$30 to \$70 collected. However, it was noted that there was a potential for the ZRCS to create more child friendly education material for the Junior RC clubs in partnership with the Ministry of Education and other NGO partners and UNICEF that could benefit all provinces and programmes.

Outcome five

It was noted that overall progress was mixed with some components like M&E improving a lot this year. volunteer meetings becoming more frequent, volunteer motivation high. However, Refresher trainings for volunteers and training on new developments, advice/feedback on challenges is needed.

Also during the period under review the Managers visited the project areas as part of their routine monitoring exercise:

- > The Secretary General, The Operation Director, the Disaster Management officer together with the Provincial Manager visited the district monitoring the distribution of disaster materials to victims of hailstorm
- > The provincial Manager and the Provincial Accountant also visited the District and participated in volunteer monthly meetings
- > The PMER and the Provincial managers visited the project areas as part of their routine monitoring exercise and preparations for the Midterm Evaluation. The team had an opportunity to visit all the operational wards discussing with volunteers on project issues and the challenges they are facing.
- > The provincial Manager and the Provincial Accountant also visited the District monthly monitoring exercises

Millennium development goals

SDG1: No poverty & SDG2: Zero hunger

The work carried out in this programme is focused on empowering communities, making them self-sufficient and adaptable to the ever-changing strains brought on by climate change. Teaching climate smart agriculture means that communities can keep themselves out of a state of hunger as well as assisting them with their livelihoods, having more crops means you have more produce to sell thus helping people pull themselves up from the poverty line.

SDG3: Good health and wellbeing & SDG5: Gender equality & SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation

All these elements are addressed in the wider programme but not the part the Isle of Man is funding. Through this programme we are also building latrines, water systems, teaching in schools

about hygiene, health and wellbeing and finally working with women in the area to set up nutrition gardens and other forms of livelihoods.

Expenditure report (GPB)

Description	Total Budget	Total Expenditure
Outcome 2: Communities organised and equipped		
Cook Stoves	£6,369	£ 5,465.55
CEW Training	£5,101	£ 3,786.46
Outcome 3: Diversified access to food and income		
Climate smart agriculture	£3,531	£ 4,247.94
Demonstration plots	£3,054	£ 6,209.63
Cash for seeds	£1,481	£ -
Healthy harvest manual	£5,701	£ -
Keyhole gardens	£2,606	£ 888.10
Support to salary costs of ZRCS	£4,525	£ 4,525
Support to BRC Performance, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Costs	£2,241	£ 2,241
Total	£34,611	£ 27,364

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