

CCOP Cyclone Idai Intervention Report

Date: 27-29 March 2019

Location: Rusitu Valley Settlement, Chimanimani, Manicaland

Overall Objective

To create a context where communities and stakeholders are committed towards preserving peace in Zimbabwe

Specific Objectives

1. To ascertain the extent and reach of the Cyclone Idai induced natural disaster in Chimanimani
2. To create and establish a safe house/shelter to cater for the needs of the affected victims
3. To promote and facilitate the establishment of a sustainable support system for the victims of the disaster

Brief Rationale of the Intervention

The initial intervention was premised upon the overall ideology of the CCOP Chimanimani Peace Plan whose emphasis was indicative of the possible activation of the service arm Pastoral Peace Ambassadors to administer any form of reasonably deliverable aid and intervention as a means to restoration and preservation of local community peace disturbances and interferences. (See concept note document)

Overall Methodology

Media and Government Authority Consultations

Further to that, information from the National media and other International Press houses such as BBC and Aljazeera was concrete evidence of an affected community in dire need of assistance and support. The internet was also a considerably credible source of information particularly with regards to mapping and key pointing the major hit areas. Cashel Valley, Skyline and Rusitu were the 3 major geographical areas of intervention that were identified. Rusitu areas however stood out as the initial point of entry owing to :

1. Its relative seclusion from the priority that the other points were getting.
2. The general gap in terms of support which resonated with the proposed CCOP intervention strategy.

I. Summary of Infrastructural Impact of the Flood

| DISTRICT | DESTROYED/COLLAPSED HOUSES | PARTIALLY DESTROYED | DETAILS | BRIDGES | DETAILS | FOOT BRIDGES | OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE |
|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------|----------|---------|--|--------------|--|
| BUHERA | 584 | 2290 | | 1 | Nyadi, | | 74 schools damaged |
| CHIMANIMANI | 2251 | 4073 | | 6 | Biririri 1(hospital) , Biririri 2(Muusha), Charter(Nyahode 1), Umvumvumu 3(Nedziwa) , Umvumvu 1(Mhandarume), Nyahode 2(Chisengu) | | 95% Of road structure, culverts |
| CHIPINGE | 732 | 5295 | 80 huts, | 3 | Lower Tanganda, Stakesroom, Masonga | | 1073 toilets |
| MAKONI | 1 | 0 | | 0 | | | mbiriri p sc roof, 2 blair toilets, |
| MUTARE RURAL | 575 | 444 | | 0 | | | 12 rural schs,4 urban sch, 1 tertiary |
| MUTARE URBAN | 16 | 43 | | 0 | | | |
| MUTASA | 65 | 72 | | 0 | | | 22toilets, bathroom, 3barns, 2 granaries |
| NYANGA | 0 | 29 | | 0 | | | 9 |
| TOTALS | 4224 | 12246 | | 10 | | 9 | |

II. Summary of Human impact of the flood

Sensitive data such as the names and contact details of the affected were omitted for ethics' purposes. This data was then the premise of the penetration strategy.

| DISTRICT | DEATHS | BURIED | MISSING | INJURED | DISPLACED(homeless) | HOUSEHOLD completely destroyed |
|--------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| BUHERA | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2920 | 584 holly,10 IDP |
| CHIMANIMANI | 169 | 169 | 328 | 164 | 11255 | 2251 households |
| CHIPINGE | 6 | 6 | 19 | 2 | 3410 | 732 HOUSEHOLDS |
| MAKONI | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 households |
| MUTARE RURAL | 4 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2875 | 575 households |
| MUTARE URBAN | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 155 | 31 houtholds |
| MUTASA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1000 | 200 households |
| NYANGA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NIL households |
| TOTALS | 181 | 181 | 347 | 175 | 21615 | DETAILS(Households) |

In process of compiling names of the missing persons

Stakeholder Engagement

- Civil Society Organizations

The CCOP team also convened with the National Association for Non Governmental Organizations (NANGO) Eastern Region at a review meeting that was convened by the Partnership for Development Initiative Trust (PDI). Several partners met were

- *Youth Alive Zimbabwe*
- *Restless Development*
- *Mwana Trust*
- *CODET*
- *ASAP*
- *DZ*
- *Green Governance Zimbabwe*
- *TIZ*
- *WCOZ and*
- *NCDT*

Key Findings were generally complementary to the government statistics however recommendations as to the way forward were categorized into short term and medium to long term interventions as annotated below.

Short/Immediate Term

- Food aid, sanitary wear for women and girls,
- Ongoing Aid distribution strategy
- actual and ongoing medical attention of the physically injured
- Cooking utensils
- Stationery for school going children
- Urgent needs assessment to avoid duplication of information plus risk of continuous omission of some vulnerable groups
- SRHR education and related measures to curb against abuse and prostitution (already on the rise at some centres)
- Investigation into the Partisan distribution of aid and corruption allegations
- Consistent and serried Counselling and psychosocial support
- Relocation of the willing victims

Medium Term to Long Term

- Identification of victims and retrieval of bodies
- Establishment of memorial sites
- Carry out studies in the area
- Provision of Individual support kits per household and eventually per individual
- Creation of an information center
- Creation of community within a community ongoing social cohesion

- Advise the government on disaster preparedness
- Ongoing education and awareness on SRHR issues
- Media education and emancipation as a safeguard against dissemination of inaccurate information and dissemination of real fact on the ground
- Monitoring mechanisms to account for the distributed food and clothing aid.

(b) Christian Church Ministers

The CCOP team accompanied by one Pastor from the Anglican Church, Reverend Mandiveyi, engaged the Local AFM pastor in order to establish the reality of the losses and the accounts of the calamitous disaster. According to the church register, 78 members were still missing and suspected to have been swept away by the raging flood waters or buried by the titanic boulders and thick sedimentary mud that completely concealed the former area of location. According to the Pastor, who also is a resident of the Rusitu valley settlement, close to 300 households were completely obliterated, with only 3 remaining standing. The average numbers affected per household were placed at between 4 and 10 implying a saddening average of 700 to 1500 lives that were lost by the flood.

(c) Zimbabwe Defense Forces

The CCOP Delegation engaged the Zimbabwe Defense Forces Chaplains Dzuda, Masomere, Mabuto. Their call was to the churches was fairly emphatic on the need for a physical tent which will be an Ecumenical center from which all church based aid will be delivered from, coordinated and tracked.

(d) District Administrator

The Chipinge District Administrator was engaged by a formal requisition form the church to establish an Ecumenical Center for Counselling and Food Relief at the St Barnabas Chipinge, under the Anglican Diocese of Manicaland. The authorization would complement the efforts expected of the churches by players such as the military.

Broader Key Learnings and Recommendations

1. The church is an irreplaceable player in galvanizing communities. The Apostolic Faith Mission (AFM) church, under pastor Chazoita, remained as one of the few buildings that were standing after the catastrophic wash away. It was therefore one of the few standing physical shelters within the whole valley and it hosted some of the victims temporary on a daily basis particularly in terms of food security and storage for the consignments that some of the families had received as of the 28th of March.
2. There is great need for actors and players that advocate for women's health rights and Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and related issues. The observed disorientation in the community has placed women and girls in an extremely vulnerable position in the sense that during food distribution, they are vulnerable by being of the fairer gender hence they fall short of manpower to make it in the scramble for food items. Further, some households

were completely destroyed leaving child headed families. Women headed households risk getting food and any other available consignments by them being exchanged for sexual favors.

3. Erection of more physical shelters that will serve to cluster the homeless together for careful monitoring of their psychosocial developments. These shelters will also serve as a means of systematizing the distribution of food aid as well in favor of more equitable and traceable distribution of all food aid.
4. There is a general lack of preparedness in the field of disaster management and risk reduction and prevention. The government and likeminded organizations should prioritize partnering in civic and institutional education on basic but essential and life saving themes and principles for disaster scenarios.
5. Apart from food aid and counselling services, the remaining residents of the Rusitu community need some loving. The church, through its Chipinge Local Ecumenical Fellowship should consider biweekly or more frequent visits to the affected persons a means of reassurance of the care of the church amid their misfortunes.

Challenges

- The government has structures such as the military and the Zimbabwe Republic Police that were deployed as the manpower to assist the victims of the natural disaster. However, the challenge came from the subtle influence of the uniformed forces given their previous “notsonice” episodes of atrocious treatment of civilians (August 2018 and January 2019), their very presence was notably intimidating(as rightly mentioned by some locals who were queuing for food).
- Food aid is considerably abundant, it is food distribution that remains a challenge. There are some pockets of affected people in the Mountainous area who did not get any form of food aid.
- Faith based actors’ response strategy was generally fragmented the ZCC has to react after realizing how other actors such as the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe had already made steps to react to the disaster without prior engagement of the ZCC and other Faith based actors. This therefore posed challenges in central coordination and realistic envisioning of a meaningful and coherent approach to aid.
- The trained Pastors were all Mutare based, bringing them to Chipinge or alternatively having them reside in the Rusitu valley settlement would be a logistical nightmare and a heavy blow on the relief budget. The most meaningful solution was engagement of the Local Ecumenical Fellowship The mission was ideally supposed to be operationalised and implemented within 2 days, however owing to delays attributable the aforesaid observations, the duration of stay of the CCOP staff was prolonged.
- Mobility as a challenge was premised on the nature of roads that had to be navigated in order to reach the affected individuals. 4x4 Off road trucks and similar vehicles were the only land locomotives which could navigate the treacherous terrains of the mountainous and



only alternate route into the valley. Lack of these has contributed to the disbursement of less than what could have been distributed in terms of food and all other available forms of aid.

- Information dissemination is significantly lacking owing to a lack of sustainable and enough sources of power, most villagers have no credible individual sources of information.



