

## Support to evacuated people of Manapools National Park

### Background

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2011, the Department of Civil Protection received a distress call about threats of displacement of people at Manapools National Parks due to Zambezi River which had reportedly burst its banks. The report from the Provincial Administrator's office was that water in the Great Zambezi was overflowing due to the opening of the flood gates at Kariba Dam affecting National Parks Employees at Manapools. Fifty-eight (58) households -101 individuals were reported to be displaced (no injuries and deaths) and required food and non food items (tents, blankets, soap, water purification tablets, emergency lighting)

It was against this background that the Directorate of Civil Protection shared the report with cooperating partners in a bid to mobilise resources to respond to the emergency.

### Response by cooperating partners

The report about the Manapools incident was widely circulated by OCHA through email and the department got positive response from IOM, UNICEF, Germany Agro- Action and Goal who contributed some of the items required for the 58 Flood affected families. The contributions were as follows;

Organisation	Items contributed
IOM	174 blankets 116 mosquito nets
GAA	20 boxes x 12= 240 bars of soap Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Materials on hand washing, food safety, cholera alert and Salt and Sugar Solution leaflets
UNICEF	58 sets of kitchen utensils
GOAL	58x 9 = 522 strips of Aqua tablets

### Field visit

On 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011, officials from the Department of Civil Protection travelled to Hurungwe District with food items bought by the Department together with non food items mentioned above, except aqua tabs. The team had a briefing with the District Administrator on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

It was established from the meeting with the District Administrator that the district Civil Protection committee had mobilised resources to enable them to travel to Manapools, which they did on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011. The team in accompaniment of one official from the district Civil Protection Committee proceeded to Marongora where there was another briefing with the Parks Management.

### Findings

- The Parks and Wild Life Authority were proactive in the evacuation of their members of staff and families on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011 after realising potential bursting of Zambezi River as the water was rising very fast due to opening of flood gates.
- Manapools had not been flooded but it was only a threat as demonstrated by back flows along Chiruve River that feeds into Zambezi River,
- Non working breast feeding women were evacuated first on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2011 and were relocated to Marongora about 79 km from Manapools,
- Second to be evacuated were working women most of them game rangers and a few other men.

- Out of the 58 families that had been moved to Marongora, only 23 families were found as the rest had proceeded to their homes most of them to Chinhoyi
- The rest of the staff members (28) were left behind shifting valuable property to the air strip and conducting business as usual,
- Another evacuation site had been identified closer to Manapools ( Air Strip) where those who had remained on guard would find safe haven using canoes in the event of flooding.
- Twenty three families were allocated two rooms which they were still sharing by the time of the visit,
- The families required both food and non food assistance as they had left most of their belongings at Manapools,
- Although the distance between Manapools and Marongora is only 79 km, a good 4x4 vehicle and a good driver will take an average of 5 hours to and from due to the bad state of the road down to Manapools.
- The affected were very young families with an average of one kid per family.

#### **Distribution of food and non food items**

As already indicated above, 23 families were assisted with food, blankets, mosquito nets, soap, kitchen utensils. Information, Education and communication material was distributed

#### **DCP**

**Each displaced person, children inclusive got each of the following food items**

- 10 kg Maize meal
- 500g peanut butter
- 750mls cooking oil
- 1 kg salt
- 500g dried beans
- 2 kg sugar

#### **IOM donations**

30 mosquito nets and 30 blankets were allocated,

The number of items given to a household was determined by the house hold size.

#### **GAA**

The team had been instructed to give 4 bars per household so 92 bars of soap were distributed among 23 households.

#### **UNICEF**

All the 23 families got 1 kit of kitchen utensils each

#### **Items that were not distributed**

144 blankets and 86 mosquito nets were not distributed. The Department was given the green light by IOM to keep the items for future relief requirements. The same thing applies for the remaining kitchen utensils and soap from UNICEF and GAA respectively.

#### **Assistance to Mhondoro Ngezi storm victims**

Thirteen families who were in November 2010, affected by a serious storm in Mhondoro Ngezi ward 6 were also assisted with food and non food items from the above mentioned organisation. The distribution was as follows;

**IOM**

**26 blankets**

**GAA**

52 bars of soap

**UNICEF**

13 kitchen utensils

The remaining non food items will be distributed as and when events will unfold. The department is keeping records which will be availed when all the items are distributed.

Thank you for your swift response.

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