



Photo: GOAL Zimbabwe COVID -19 Mobile Campaign in Manicaland July 2020



## WASH Service Delivery Bulletin



August 2020



### WASH Service Delivery Update – August 2020

#### Introduction

COVID-19 has significantly changed the course and way of life in Zimbabwe and continues to impact communities affected by Tropical Cyclone Idai that caused significant loss of life, injury, and displacement in the Eastern Highlands. The ongoing drought within Zimbabwe affected water supplies in some of the Districts with water points reportedly drying up and lower water tables increasing the vulnerability of cyclone-affected communities. The Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP) is a three-year resilience programme funded by the World Bank and managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) focusing on recovery, livelihood support, and restoration of community infrastructure and social services and has been mainstreaming COVID-19 into WASH interventions in nine of the most affected districts of Chimanimani, Chipinge, Buhera, Mutare, Bikita, Gutu, Mutasa and Chikomba.

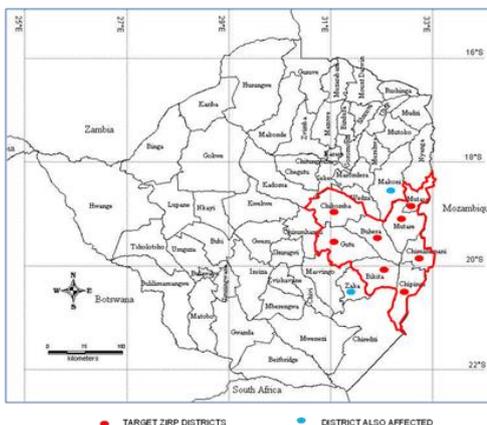


Image: Target Districts for ZIRP WASH Service Delivery

UNICEF with partners present in the eight districts continue to support WASH activities in affected areas through the restoration of boreholes, piped water schemes, protection of springs, and other ancillary infrastructure using build back better principles where appropriate. Communities are also actively involved in the rehabilitation process with capacity building for community-based management of their water and sanitation systems and drinking water safety and security planning with specific attention to gender and inequities. The programme is leveraging on partnerships between communities, NGO partners, private sector and local, provincial and national WASH sector stakeholders to establish a model for WASH resilience in the country through knowledge management and sharing of lessons learned.

#### Covid-19 prevention through Mobile Units

Over the last four months distinctive mobile units have been travelling through urban and rural communities in Zimbabwe delivering vital COVID-19 prevention messages to vulnerable people in Chipinge, Mutare and Chimanimani. Messages delivered included vital health and hygiene messages with attention to gender-based violence and information for mothers to screen their children for malnutrition. The campaign managed to reach 316,673 people directly. GOAL rolled out a food distribution programme in partnership with WFP where Promobile and Goal teams visited distribution stations adhering to social distancing and hand washing and using microphones to engage with people waiting at food collection points.

The mobile unit awareness model is a good example of private sector and NGO collaboration and has potential to achieve positive change. Gabriella Prandini, the GOAL Zimbabwe Country Director, emphasized the impact the partnership had on vulnerable communities in Zimbabwe through the integration of gender-based violence and child protection messaging into the campaign, and to promote toll free helplines. “Normally the various trucks are on the road promoting popular consumer brands such as Coca Cola. But in what is a totally new direction Promobile, found itself working together with an international NGO in the fight against the spread of the COVID-19 virus”. The Director of Childline, informed Gabriella: “For Manicaland I can tell you that for the first time in the 23 years’ history of Childline the first quarter of the 2020 saw more calls from Manicaland for the Helpline and a drop in centers largely thanks to the awareness campaign.”

For more information on GOAL: [www.goalglobal.org](http://www.goalglobal.org)

The campaign featured on Twitter and Relief Web:

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1264583551527288837>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/power-private-sectorngo-partnership-how-mobile-advertising-company-promobile-and>

[https://twitter.com/zirp\\_zimbabwe?lang=en](https://twitter.com/zirp_zimbabwe?lang=en)

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### Women at the Centre of WASH

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by disasters and climate change and face increased risks due to the breakdown of normal protection structures during humanitarian crises. The ZIRP program ensures women can contribute meaningfully to the decisions that affect their lives. Women are enabled to bring to the fore important skills, resources and experience as they have a good local knowledge and contextual understanding of risks needed for resilience building activities. One of the aims of the WASH service delivery component is to capacitate women in essential skills like latrine building and village pump mechanics. The program in Mutasa through the District Water and Sanitation Sub Committee (DWSSC) managed to train 34 (30 males and 4 Females) on construction of Blair Improved Ventilated Pit Latrines (BVIP). Although the training equipped only 4 women with building skills, it is a milestone achievement for Annastancia Gwata, 47 who lives in Mtetwa B Village in ward 13 of Mutasa, with her husband and 5 children (3 boys and 2 girls between 4 and 18). Like many other women in the district, repair of boreholes and bricklaying has usually been a preserve for men only.



**Photo:** Annastancia Gwata (*entrance*) taking part in the latrine builders training in Ward 13 of Mutasa District. CARE International, July 2020.

Following sensitization meetings by government with support from CARE International on the transformative agenda for women's participation in bricklaying and borehole repairs, her husband encouraged her to seriously consider stepping up being a bricklayer than a mere assistant. Annastancia had previously participated in the construction of a classroom block but only as an Assistant to male counterparts. Annastancia, said she was not allowed to do the actual building she "was not even allowed to hold a trowel. I was only allowed to be an assistant, but I took this opportunity to learn". The introduction of the ZIRP program in Mutasa district has brought change on how women participate in male dominated fields like latrine building and borehole repair.

When interviewed, the mother of 5 said, "I would like to thank the Government and CARE International who have offered us an opportunity to go into the bricklaying field and I urge women in our ward to come and join so that we can match men in terms of numbers". Annastancia, together with three other women are now able to construct latrines on their own and with the project targeting 55 supply led sanitation facilities, they hope to raise funds for medicines and other household requirements as bricklayers for the selected households. When asked about the importance of this development in her community and in the future for women she said that "this is an example to young girls in the community as they now have an example in their community showing that women can also make it in male dominated trades".

CARE international will build on the Mutasa experiences to undertake a gender analysis for water, sanitation and hygiene and support other civil society organizations in the mainstreaming of gender in Cyclone recovery activities.

For more information on CARE International: <https://care.org/our-work/where-we-work/zimbabwe/>

### Household Latrine Construction

Sanitation is an important part of community well-being as it guards human health, extending life spans, and protects the environment including drinking water sources. Adequate sanitation investments also contribute to reducing sexual and gender-based violence. In this light the ZIRP program in Gutu is targeting 100 vulnerable households to ensure sanitation facilities are restored among targeted households.

Africa Ahead working with the area councillor and the community of Mudete village in ward 15, in Gutu district joined hands to help Mbuya Tiemure (aged 81 years) to construct a latrine for her household. Mbuya Tiemure, is a widow who had her latrine and her two-room house destroyed by Cyclone Idai leaving her with one hut, which she is now using as both bedroom and kitchen.

Taking into cognisance her inability to gather all the required materials and lack of manpower to dig the pit, the community supported her by providing her with bricks, river and pit sand and supported her with the required labour throughout the construction process, including fetching water to ensure her latrine could be constructed. Working closely with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, Africa Ahead supported builders under the ZIRP program for latrine construction.

Mbuya Tiemure' could not hide her excitement at the thought of having her latrine completed by the end of August 2020, which would offer her the decency and privacy she was used to prior to the cyclone.

The top picture shows the remains of the toilet after the devastating cyclone Idai, which left the vulnerable widow without a decent home. The picture below shows Mbuya Tiemure posing in front of her toilet nearing completion.

For more information on Africa Ahead: [www.africaahead.org](http://www.africaahead.org)



Photo: Africa Ahead Mbuya Tiemure latrine under construction in Mudete village in Gutu July 2020.

## Community Voices



Photo: OXFAM in Zimbabwe

Ms. Sigauke, a 47-year-old Village Health Worker in Maingeni Village 6 in Chipinge.

*“I thank Oxfam for empowering Village Health Workers and the community at large. They provided COVID-19 pamphlets and fliers which has made it easier for us as VHWs to cascade COVID-19 information to all our community members.”*

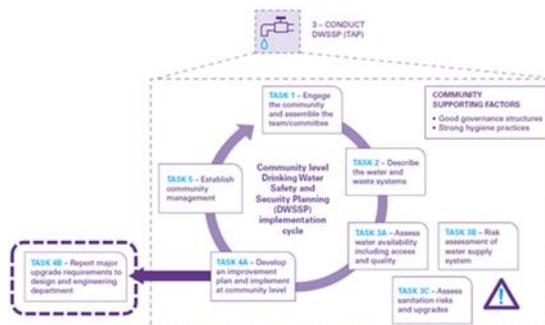
*“We have been drinking rusty water because our borehole pipes and rods had been corroded but now, we are very happy to be working with Oxfam as they have brought us new borehole spares; “sang the Nyagadza women.”*



For more information on OXFAM: <https://www.oxfam.org/en/what-we-do/countries/zimbabwe>

## Building Back Better

Resilience building has always been the main thrust of the ZIRP WASH Service Delivery component. This is being done through Community Based Management approaches where local communities select representatives to form a committee to manage facilities such as communal water points whereas Community Health Clubs and Sanitation Action Groups are also formed to strengthen the sanitation and hygiene components. Under a complementary approach through ZIRP, Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning (DWSSP) is being introduced as holistic approach to resilience building in water and sanitation programming.



Drinking Water Safety and Security Planning will be adopted as a starting point to engage with communities about water supply recovery and improvements, supporting “Build Back Better” infrastructure and more resilient communities to future natural disasters. Communities will be actively involved and supported in the rehabilitation process with capacity building for community-based management systems for operation and maintenance and drinking water safety and security planning.

A consultative meeting was held with the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) and the Department of WASH coordination (DWASHC) in which UNICEF was given the greenlight to implement DWSSP in the targeted ZIRP districts as a pilot. The MoHCC, with support from the World Health Organisation (WHO) has already developed a national strategic document, the National Water Quality and Safety Plan (NWQSP), still in draft. This is framework will be guiding DWSSP upon completion as the NWQSP is a national road map whilst DWSSP is a community level document which will guide the day to day operation and maintenance of water and sanitation systems.

DWSSP training of trainers (ToTs) was rolled out to UNICEF implementing partners and will be rolled out to the government WASH key personnel at national, provincial and district level as a way of building capacity before benefiting communities are reached with the same training. Trainings were conducted virtually via zoom platform due to the Covid-19 restrictions, with participants split into groups depending on number of participants from each IP to ensure manageable numbers are maintained. The practical sessions will be done physically at a later stage with NGO partners and in communities while observing the Covid-19 regulations.

For more information on UNICEF: [www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/](http://www.unicef.org/zimbabwe/)

WASH Service Delivery CSO Engagement



All content developed in this bulletin is done in partnership with the communities in the targeted districts, government and these organizations working as part of the ZIRP for WASH. If you have any suggestions for future bulletins please forward them to [tmavi@unicef.org](mailto:tmavi@unicef.org)