Zimbabwe continues to experience a major scale humanitarian crisis due to man made and natural hazards. Cyclone Idai, consecutive failed rainy seasons, droughts, floods and other environmental effects, compounded by currency instability and economic crisis, are particularly impacting the most vulnerable. The poor rainy season and long-lasting drought has significantly reduced crop harvests and access to clean and safe water, resulting in protracted internal displacement and limited household food stocks. These climate shocks have resulted in food insecurity, loss of livelihoods and lower income levels, increasing the numbers of households facing moderate to large food consumption gaps not being able to meet minimum food needs by depleting essential assets or employing crisis or emergency coping strategies (Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee – ZimVAC 2019).

As a consequence, this situation triggers waves of displacement and migration outflows, from rural to urban areas, and across the border into neighbouring countries, creating a multifaceted mobility environment, characterized by an increase of substantial internal and cross-border movements, requiring continuous monitoring within the affected districts and at key border points.

The residual affected population from the Cyclone Idai 2019, is still in need of assistance. The government is yet to implement a permanent relocation plan for IDPs which remain in temporary camps. It is essential to resume CCCM activities to ensure the protection issues and Accountability of Affected Persons (AAP) Emergency shelters provided in the first phase of the response are worn out and there is an urgent need to upgrade camp infrastructure. Shelter support needs are still overwhelming and this continues to increase economic and social pressure creating further distress to the households.

The rising humanitarian needs are forcing families to adopt negative coping mechanisms, increasing protection risks faced by women and children in particular. While moving from one place to the other, women, girls and children are especially vulnerable, facing risks of exploitation and harassment, which can include sexual assault and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV), in particular trafficking in persons (TiP), and lead to acute and longer term consequences on the health and well-being of individuals and their communities. Mental health and psychosocial problems are additional challenges faced by IDPs as potential consequences of family separation and challenges, and sometimes denial, of access to services during a crisis.

Within the context of the Zimbabwe Humanitarian Appeal 2020, IOM’s programming will be focused on strengthening protection, recovery, resilience, community stabilization and durable solutions for populations impacted by displacement post-Cyclone Idai. Furthermore, IOM will strengthen migration and displacement data collection and analysis for evidence based programming. IOM will also focus on multi sectoral humanitarian assistance including shelter and NFIs, CCCM, displacement tracking, protection, health and early recovery to a targeted 859,979 individuals.
Shelter support is vital to the return and recovery of displaced populations. Shelter needs remain high across all affected districts, as 128,270 people have been affected by Cyclone Idai. Out of the 12 districts, the districts of Chimanimani, Chipinge, Buhera and Mutare are the most affected, with a total number of 104,270 individuals still in need of assistance. The majority of IDPs (97 per cent) are residing with host communities, with a small proportion (three per cent) currently seeking shelter in four established IDPs camps.

Shelter assistance has so far focused primarily on Chipinge and Chimanimani districts, but there are significant shelter damages reported in Buhera and Mutare, other low-lying areas of Masvingo and Manicaland Province where many IDPs have been able to seek shelter with relatives and community members, creating a risk that hosting arrangements will add significant stress to hosting households. It is against this background that IOM has recognized the necessity to continue the humanitarian response, developing a furthermore comprehensive multisectoral intervention.

Whilst only 18 per cent of the affected population managed to receive emergency shelter support, there is a need for the construction of emergency and transitional shelter for IDPs in camps and host communities. Despite the desire of IDPs to return to rebuild their homes and resume their lives, there are significant risks associated with rebuilding in flood-prone areas. It is critical to mitigate the risk of floods and storms destroying hastily repaired or reconstructed homes and causing secondary displacements. IOM, as the lead of the Shelter/CCCM Cluster, will work with cluster partners and affected communities to improve shelter conditions in host communities and improve living conditions in, and management of, displacement sites.

The aim of shelter assistance programmes is to ensure that families have adequate, appropriate and safe shelter to support transition along the pathway to permanent and durable housing, prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable, ensuring participation, freedom of choice, and access to basic services to ensure a life of dignity through the following activities:

- Assessment of damaged infrastructure;
- Conducting meetings at the district level to set up guidelines for beneficiaries’ selection criteria and registration;
- Assessment of suppliers to coordinate the procurement of building materials (market assessment);
- The mobilization of materials;
- Capacity building for local community builders;
- Construction and Rehabilitation of emergency and transitional shelter structures according to Sphere standards;
- Ensuring protection issues are observed throughout construction, including partitions and door locks to better protect women and girls, particularly single women and female-headed households;
- Mainstream MHPSS services in all shelter activities.
- Conduct Post Distribution Monitoring assessments.

CAMP CORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

IOM recognizes that camps are the last resort and these displacements sites currently hosting the cyclone-affected populations in various locations are expected to be temporary in nature.

IOM, as Shelter and CCCM Cluster Lead, has been leading emergency humanitarian response interventions for the Cyclone Idai affected population. IOM, in collaboration with the Government of Zimbabwe, has established four IDPs camps, providing shelter to 224 Households and 830 individuals.

IOM has held bi monthly meetings at the provincial level to discuss the conditions under which the relocation of IDPs from camps to temporary displacement sites may be able to occur and reviewing progress made by the government on permanent relocations.

Site coordination capacity is severely lacking - sites have started to demonstrate increasing protection concerns and risks. IDP sites need site level support as well as intra site management to ensure service delivery is effectively targeted, and safely and appropriately provided.

Ten months after Cyclone Idai, CCCM is still essential to ensure the accountability of affected persons (AAP), the implementation of a camp exit strategy and technical support to the government to operationalize a relocation plan.

The possibility of the relocation of IDPs in camps is not feasible in the short term and it is anticipated that IDPs will remain in the camps for between six to twelve months. For this reason, IOM will continue providing technical assistance through the following activities:

- CCCM service delivery
- Monitoring of standards and implementation of referrals;
- Information management through day-to-day site monitoring
DISPLACEMENT TRACKING - EVIDENCE BASED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Information on affected and displaced populations has been a key gap of the affected crisis population in Zimbabwe due to the rural nature of the affected districts. In order to ensure a more robust and targeted response for the humanitarian community, IOM is implementing its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tool to provide key information and critical insights into the situation on internally displaced and affected persons in Zimbabwe, due to residual Cyclone Idai emergency crisis, droughts and food insecurity, targeting displaced affected population, IPC4 districts and cross borderer migration points, to track mobile population.

The DTM comprises a set of information management tools which are used to collect primary data and disseminate regular and accurate information to humanitarian partners. Specifically, a scaled-up DTM intervention will provide humanitarian stakeholders with a mapping of displacement sites, demographics of those most affected, mobility tracking as populations move to and from sites towards return and relocation, as well as detailed inter-sectorial information on all assessed sites to support strategic decision making around resource allocation. The DTM products will include maps, dashboards, narrative reports and raw data, which will be shared with humanitarian partners on a regular basis. Data collected will be disaggregated by sex and age, as well as disabilities and other vulnerabilities.

Information will be provided by IOM by conducting the following activities:

- Rapid assessments
- Baseline assessments
- Return Intention Surveys
- Flow monitoring
- Multi sectorial and Site assessments

DTM tool will increase its scope to be used as data collection in the preparedness and risk reduction phase providing valuable data and expertise and actively uses technology to support in managing the risks and building the resilience of communities, and in the recovery and crisis prevention phase supporting durable solutions, by providing communities with the tools to accelerate recovery, transition and socio-economic development.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

The loss of homes and belongings, mounting physical insecurity and possible violent experiences, as well as the overall devastation caused by Cyclone Idai, has left the affected communities in distress. Displacement has challenged the usual social networks that individuals and families may normally use to cope and has resulted in the acute need for dedicated mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

IOM, in partnership with the Counselling Services Unit (CSU), has been working to strengthen the capacity of communities to cope with the impact of the disaster through MHPSS direct service provision. This is done through mobile teams that support the process of recovery for people with MHPSS challenges at the state level, and they perform house visit in the communities, creating a Whole Recovery Action Plan (WRAP).

MHPSS programmes in emergency usually make use of a standardized approach: psychosocial mobile teams (PMTs). PMTs are multidisciplinary psychosocial support teams that offer services in a community-based fashion.

They have been engaged by IOM to respond to the MHPSS needs of displaced populations in this particular emergency situation. The combined multidisciplinary expertise of a range of team members is used to deliver community-based comprehensive care to individuals, families and groups.

These include members of the concerned communities that have been trained with various types of educational backgrounds, cultural competencies and professional skills. Their mobility allows for flexibility of programming (sites, responses, timing), which is an essential component when dealing with emergencies, and allows outreach and proximity to the communities over time and displacement phases.
Over the past two decades, Zimbabwe has experienced macroeconomic challenges and has witnessed multiple and complex migration characterized by high levels of cross-border mobility, brain drain, irregular migration, human trafficking and mixed migration flows.

Considering that the provision of protection in emergency response situations has been consistently identified as a major gap in need of addressing, IOM’s response aims to Promote the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, returnees and host communities in different areas of Zimbabwe assisting vulnerable populations, including victims and potential Victims of Trafficking in Persons (VoTs), survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) as well as other persons at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation.

IOM aims to support implementation of activities to

- Increase awareness of risks of trafficking in persons and GBV;
- Facilitate access to services responding to individual needs of crisis-affected persons, including survivors of GBV and VoTs;
- Strengthen measures that aim to mitigate risks of and prevent GBV;
- Improved advocacy and protection of unaccompanied migrant children;
- Provide direct assistance to VoTs and reintegration support to returnees vulnerable population.
- Provide MHPSS services to vulnerable protection cases

As a key part of any Humanitarian Response, Protection Mainstreaming and IOM’s GBViC Framework’s (2018) guiding principles will be incorporated in all IOM activities during crisis context and office staff will be trained to

### Humanitarian Response

**Protection**

Funding required: $2,243,000

Target no. of individuals: 859,879

**Health**

Funding required: $1,000,000

Target no. of individuals: 90,000

### Community Stabilization

Funding required: $3,500,000

Target no. of individuals: 90,000

The team has 3 distinct visions of action: continuous home visits; daily stay with people in acute conditions and one-off interventions in crisis situations; as well as psycho-education and psychological first aid. In addition, IOM will work to support protection and health referral pathways to ensure that services are provided in a coordinated and complementary way to those in need.

**Protection**

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**Health**

Humanitarian crisis due to natural disasters results in the breakdown of social networks and institution, often leading to a mass displacement of people who become especially vulnerable to HIV and other diseases.

Global, regional and national HIV/AIDS projects are among the largest of IOM’s activities in health promotion and assistance to vulnerable populations. Over the last decade, IOM has implemented HIV/AIDS-related projects in partnership with governments, international organizations and civil society. Among the beneficiaries of those projects include mobile populations in crisis settings including internally displaced persons (IDPs), families and partners of migrants, and victims of sexual and gender-based violence and trafficking in persons as the main beneficiaries.

IOM addresses HIV/AIDS risks and vulnerabilities at all phases of emergency and HIV/AIDS prevention and research are key activities. IOM will provide direct services including voluntary testing, counselling and treatment services, including antiretroviral therapy. IOM will implement activities such as:

- Strengthening the capacity of government partners in coordinating HIV responses;
- Supporting the training of emergency responders;
- Empowering emergency actors to include HIV services in their contingency plans;
- Supporting the development of national guidelines for HIV response in emergency settings.

**Community Stabilization**

IOM will support early recovery actors with key information on the community’s intentions post-disaster as well as leading in relocation operations, return/relocation site assessments and planning. Additionally, in order to initiate early recovery processes for affected population, IOM will leverage 10-year experience in the field of recovery and resilience building. This includes working through local District Administrator’s office staff that have been trained in the program methodology to undertake the community-based planning (CBP) approach adopted by the Government of Zimbabwe as a standard approach to Post-Crisis recovery and durable solutions to displacement. This focus on promoting social cohesion and enhancing the participation of communities, including the most vulnerable, implies coming up with development priorities in the reconstruction of their communities through a CBP process.

The CBP will ensure District Administrators and ward counsellors are able to convene disaster-affected communities to plan, prioritize and organize populations to define and drive recovery processes mainly on livelihood restoration. IOM’s approach will ensure communities are at the center of defining and leading their own recovery processes, as well as building back better to reduce risks of future shocks.
Over the past decade, IOM has emerged as one of the world’s largest humanitarian actors, with large-scale relief operations underway in virtually every major humanitarian setting. IOM Zimbabwe uses its extensive expertise and experience in this area both to provide support to States, as well as the individuals and communities affected by crisis, and to actively contribute to the efforts of the international community to identify ways to more effectively address future humanitarian challenges related to natural hazards and disasters.

IOM’s key objective in the country is to ensure preparedness and enable a more effective operational response to crises. Zimbabwe faces a number of challenges; the country is prone to sudden natural disasters, including floods, storms and cyclones, as well as a general drought, resulting in large numbers of IDPs who seek durable and sustainable solutions. Political uncertainty combined with this natural hazard-prone environment, compounded by the impacts of climate change, elevates the importance of preparedness measures.

IOM seeks to provide preemptive interventions in support of Government and community resilience as new crises and displacements caused by human or natural disasters unfold. IOM will play a key role in creating an emergency response strategy, working in close partnership with, and promoting synergies between, relevant government and non-governmental stakeholders. IOM will conduct the following activities:

- Preparing communities for disasters and potential displacement: Community Based Disaster Risk Management
- Building the capacity of institutions to manage disasters and displacement
- Bridging the response mechanisms of communities and institutions
- Establishing systems that provide timely information: Early Warning - Early Action and Disaster Response
Zimbabwe is one of the Southern African countries that is prone to a variety of seasonal and regional natural hazards, as well as human-induced crises, that can occur at any time and anywhere in the country. Natural hazards frequently result in large-scale population movements, within and across borders, which reduce access to essential services and increase exposure to violence, impacting the health and well-being of both displaced populations and host communities.

Disasters and environmental degradation also threaten to hamper progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially for low-income countries like Zimbabwe. As environmental degradation and climate change are expected to increase the frequency and intensity of sudden-onset hazards and to worsen the impacts of slow-onset hazards, the implications with respect to human mobility will be significant.

IOM will work in close coordination with the Government of Zimbabwe to establish a National Support Hub in Harare, as a coordination office for capacity building as a disaster preparedness measure. This office will aim to strengthen the disaster risk management in Zimbabwe and to include public health risk reduction such as preparedness for disease outbreaks (e.g. cholera).

IOM aims to mobilize stakeholders at all levels to pay increasing attention to Disaster Risk Management (DRM) as part of their wider development agendas, and more crucially, to recognize the cross-cutting and central role of capacity development in the task of creating a culture of resilience to hazards.

- Implementation strategy to develop and operationalize a DRM system
- Building DRM capacity to strengthen the competencies and skills of Government officials, groups and communities
- Provide technical support and train the institutions involved in DRR to effectively execute their mandates.
- Create a culture of resilience to hazards.
- Establish concise preparedness plans to intervene in case of future crises.

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**ZIMBABWE — IDPS AND RETURNEES PRESENCE MAP (SOURCE: IOM DTM BASELINE ASSESSMENT 2019)**

**Funding required**

$1,200,000

**Target no. of individuals**

90,000