

**Redesigning Systems for Resilience through Recovery:
Assessing Progress and the Unfinished Agenda at the Midpoint of the
Sendai Framework
The Case of Zimbabwe**



The reality of increasing frequency and magnitude of disasters

- In the period under review, 2015-2023; Zimbabwe has witnessed the devastating effects of climate change; in the frequency and magnitude of disasters
- COVID-19 added another layer of vulnerability to communities some of which have already been battling with drought, floods and mudslides
- In 2019, Zimbabwe was hit by the worst disaster to date; Cyclone Idai which resulted in 347 deaths and some are still missing who are now declared dead.
- Some citizens are buried in Mozambique.
- The Cyclone damaged infrastructure worth millions.
- Emergency preparedness had been high on the priorities for the government of Zimbabwe
- Cyclone Idai made that conversation urgent



“Preparedness is the only way to combat a disaster”-John Quinlan

Advances in enhancing disaster preparedness

Through public funding, Government has done rebuilt schools, and installed wash facilities in education and health facilities. Cooperation with development partners has helped restore normalcy in many communities across multiple sectors- food security and livelihoods, health, GBV support, Displacement tracking, education, water and sanitation.

1. Institutional strengthening for disaster risk reduction

- Under the African Development Bank, Post Cyclone Idai and Kenneth Emergency and Resilience Programme, (PCIREP) tools, equipment, vehicles, ICT devices have been procured for the Meteorological Services Department, Power Supply company and Civil Protection Unit.



Advances in enhancing disaster preparedness

2. Resilience building

- To date, the Government has spent RTGS\$8.3 billion repaired major roads and bridges that were destroyed by the Cyclone
- The government has also provided houses for internally displaced persons in Manicaland and Matebeleland, disbursing more than RTGS\$347m towards the construction of the 4-roomed houses. US\$2 million was spent in assisting victims in situ.
- African Development Bank and World Bank are augmenting government efforts in recovery and resilience building
- Other partners such as China Aid, are supporting solarisation of health centres, reconstruction of schools and maternal waiting shelters. 467 houses were rehabilitated in 53 wards in Chipinge and Chimanimani using ECHO funds



Advances in enhancing disaster preparedness



- \$72 million multi-sectoral intervention, funded by the World Bank, managed by UNOPS and implemented by 8 UN agencies (FAO, IOM, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP, WHO)
- UNOPS has two roles
 - Project Implementation Unit - project management to facilitate strengthened implementation
 - Implementer - rehabilitation and restoration of critical community infrastructure and community level structural risk reduction and mitigation



- \$25 million partnership between UNOPS and Government of Zimbabwe, funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB).
- Focuses on sustainable socio-economic infrastructure, enhancing agricultural productivity and resilience, institutional strengthening and project coordination
- Centred on public infrastructure including Irrigation, Roads, Bridges, Power supply, Water and Sanitation Networks

Advances in enhancing disaster preparedness

3. Climate resilient infrastructure

- In infrastructure, UNOPS has been supporting the development of disaster resilient designs.

4. Hazard risk mapping

- Through UNESCO, one of the implementing partners for the Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project (ZIRP), flood risk maps and school safety assessments have also been conducted

5. Communication on risk preparedness and management

- The Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry of Information, Publicity, and Broadcasting issued the first licences for community radios in cyclone affected areas of Chimanimani, Chipinge and Nyanga this year.



Integration and inclusivity

- The Government has robust structures from village to national level to ensure effective knowledge transfer
- These disaster management committees include private sector, development partners and government stakeholders across all sectors
- Diversity and inclusion is mainstreamed in all disaster preparedness coordination programs with women and people with disabilities aptly represented so that their needs are expressed and incorporated
- All disaster recovery projects are engendered to ensure the participation and benefit of women. UNOPS mandates 50% female beneficiaries in any intervention
- Disaster preparedness has been integrated into all sectors of the economy to build resilience to future shocks



Key barriers in building back better

1. Building back better sometimes takes longer to deliver robust, climate resilient infrastructure. There is always pressure in an emergency to “build back fast” and restore a sense of normalcy
2. Financing for disaster preparedness as opposed to disaster recovery. In the absence of a devastating disaster, preparedness may be overtaken by other priorities
3. A disintegrated approach to the national disaster preparedness strategy. In Zimbabwe, we have been able to overcome this through disaster coordination committee that reports directly to the Office of the President
4. Bureaucracy can frustrate efforts to build back better. The devolution strategy that Zimbabwe implemented in 2019 has accelerated implementation
5. Competing priorities for limited resources. COVID-19 has robbed many citizens of their livelihoods, pushing many into poverty and malnutrition.



Support required to build back better

1. Financing to build back better and invest in resilience. The assessment that was done following Cyclone Idai indicated that estimated that there had been between US\$542-616 million in damages or losses due to Cyclone Idai across nine districts in Zimbabwe. Of this requirement, Zimbabwe has been able to mobilise only **US\$133 million**
2. Development of local technology to meet international standards



Thank you

