



Make Children and Women Count



Make Children and Women Count



Make Children and Women Count

Role of the community in mitigation and adaptation to floods

The respondents agreed that communities have a role to play in the mitigation of the impact of disasters. However, their mitigation role was limited due to the inadequacy or not compelling early warning alerts before the floods. However, the study communities were appreciating government, community leadership, schools and churches for leading in assisting those affected by the cyclone.

Gaps on interventions to assist affected communities

The respondents reiterated that the government and other partners were assisting the affected communities with food, clothing and temporary shelter. However, they reflected that there was limited supplies of undergarments, sanitary wear, blankets and kitchen utensils. There was a strong feeling that many children were roaming unattended and there was risk of child abuse, and they reiterated the need for facilities that occupies the children such as playing spaces, toys, libraries, art, pens and pencils. During focus group discussions the participants felt that recreation was very important to relieving stressing children. There were examples of children who keep on asking for their parents that succumbed to the disaster and recreating can be helpful to distract the child and help him/her to cope with the after effects of the disaster.

Recommendations from key informants and focus groups summarized.

1. Psychosocial support to families affected by cyclone IDAI.
2. Recreational facilities for children affected by cyclone IDAI.
3. Growing short variety crops to restore food security.
4. Construction of schools and early childhood learning centers for school going children
5. Capacity building of church organizations and leadership offering psychosocial support to those affected by cyclone IDAI.
6. First Aid Courses to affected communities, and community health workers.
7. Building the resilience of the communities for the future disasters
8. Develop a functional and trustworthy early warning systems
9. Strengthen community leadership in mitigation of disasters and dealing with aftermath of disaster.
10. Information, education, social and behavior change communication materials on resilience

ENGAGING THE CYCLONE IDAI AFFECTED COMMUNITIES FOR EVIDENCE- BASED PROGRAMMING



A QUALITATIVE RAPID ASSESSMENT REPORT, CYCLONE IDAI-NGANGU, CHIMANIMANI, ZIMBABWE

20-22 MARCH 2019

Prepared by : Make Children and Women
Count (MAKCAW)

Contact details

6th Floor
Kopje Plaza Building
No.1 Jason Moyo Avenue
Harare, Zimbabwe

Tel: +263 242 754124
Email: info@makcaw.org
Website: www.makcaw.org



Make Children and Women Count



Make Children and Women Count



Make Children and Women Count

BACKGROUND

A total of 250,000 people was reported to be affected by the floods, Cyclone Idai in nine districts (Chimanimani, Chipinge, Buhera, Makoni, Nyanga, Mutare Rural, Bikita, Masvingo and Gutu). It is estimated that 48% of the affected population is under 18 years of age. In addition, an estimated 60,000 children need immediate child protection services, and 100,000 children are in need of welfare and civil registration services in nine flood affected districts. Initial estimates indicate that 54 classrooms from 114 schools have been affected by the floods, impacting about 30,000 learners. Make Children and Women Count (MAKCAW) conducted a rapid qualitative assessment in Chimanimani district to establish the needs of women and children in aftermath of floods

OBJECTIVES

To identify the needs of women and children in the affected communities in Chimanimani.

METHODS

Makcaw team used qualitative rapid assessment methods to establish the needs of women and children in affected districts. Key informant interviews (with key frontline workers and affected community members) and focus group discussions were used to collect qualitative data. A purposive sampling technique was used to select women and men who participated. A total of 10 key informant interviews were conducted, composed by 7 women and 3 men. Two focus group discussions were conducted with women and men, in separate groups. Each focus group comprised of 8 women and 8 men. Participants gave consent for interviews and photography.

KEY FINDINGS

Impact of cyclone IDAI

Key informants corroborated that human life was lost during the floods; some of them survivors were maimed by the injuries. They reiterated the magnitude of loss, where their crops, livestock, schools, police camps, health facilities, and homes (including their assets) were wiped away during the floods. There was overwhelming evidence from the respondents, that people in Chimanimani were psychologically depressed by the disaster, with some who have lost their spouses and/or entire family contemplating their purpose of living. The respondents highlighted that there were a significant proportion of children unaccompanied; their parents perished in the disaster.

Lack of adequate information to prepare for floods.

There was collaboration amongst participants that although they received flood warning information on their mobile phones prior to the disaster; there was strong views amongst the respondents that the information was general and not compelling anyone to take mitigation action. The information received was urging those living in low lying areas to (seek refuge in highlands but as Chimanimani is already situated on highlands the communities did not think the message applied to them) and encase of floods the advice was to stay indoors, under the bed among other messages. The respondents felt that such important alerts should not only be shared on sms and WhatsApp; the warning would have been compelling if government had communicated through its frontline workers and civil society organizations such as agricultural extension officers, traditional leaders, community health workers, health workers, teachers, police camps, and churches who are trusted by the community.