



Zimbabwe Gender Commission

ASSESSMENT REPORT ON GENDERED IMPACT OF FLOODS IN BUDIRO AND KUWADZANA SUBURBS



3-5 JANUARY 2024

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Foreword

On behalf of the Zimbabwe Gender Commission, I am honoured to present this report on the gendered impact of the floods that affected families in Budiro and Kuwadzana on the 22nd of December 2023. This disaster, while affecting the entire community, laid bare the disproportionate vulnerabilities faced by women and girls during disasters. Disasters exacerbate existing inequalities, pushing women and girls further towards the margins. This report serves as a stark reminder of this reality and the urgent need for gender-responsive disaster risk reduction and recovery efforts.

The Commission undertook a comprehensive gender assessment to understand the specific challenges faced by women and girls in the aftermath of the floods. The findings paint a concerning picture of unmet needs related to food security, sanitation, healthcare, and education. These challenges, coupled with the loss of documents and uncertainty about the future, create a precarious situation for many survivors.

However, this report is not merely a chronicle of hardship. It also offers hope. Through its evidence-based recommendations, the report calls for concrete actions to address the gendered dimensions of disaster risk and resilience. These recommendations include:

- Fast-tracking the enactment of the Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection Bill
- Development of a National Compensation and Relocation Framework
- Investment into appropriate drainage infrastructure
- Strengthening enforcement of wetland protection laws and regulations
- Raising public awareness on the ecological importance of wetlands

By implementing these recommendations, we can build stronger, more equitable communities that are better prepared to handle future disasters. We owe it to the survivors of the Budiro and Kuwadzana floods, and to all Zimbabweans, to ensure that no one is left behind in the face of adversity.

I commend the Commission's staff for their dedication to this important work, and I urge all stakeholders to engage with the findings and recommendations presented in this report. Together, we can create a future where disasters do not disproportionately burden women and girls, but instead serve as catalysts for positive change.



Commissioner M. Mukahanana Sangarwe
Chairperson - Zimbabwe Gender Commission

Executive Summary

Disasters are neither gender neutral nor selective as its effects can be felt across an entire continuum. Given the complexity of disasters which are either natural or human induced their disparaging impact are consequently huge as they cause serious disruptions to the well-functioning of communities, day to day livelihoods and the associated trauma related to emotional, physical and health issues. However, it's regrettably to note that, their impact on women and girls including vulnerable groups is predominant compared to men and boys. This is largely due to other variables the earlier group find themselves face off which are linked to economic, political, social and cultural issues.

As disasters vary in form and nature, they both share a similarity in relation to its effects on communities as they exceedingly prevail its ability to cope with the aftermath's effects. The floods that drenched the suburbs of Budiro and Kuwadzana presents a typical case of the devastating nature of disasters in our midst. Subsequently, its disproportionate gendered impact on the affected communities can neither be underestimated but rather calls for an improved understanding of the gender dynamics of disaster risk and resilience to foster better policy and program design which are gender sensitive and beneficial to the affected communities with further widening pre-existing gender inequalities.

Concerned with gender dynamics and dimension of the process, the Commission undertook a gender assessment aimed at assessing the community's exposure and risks to the flood disaster and gathering evidence and information that could be useful in formulation of mechanisms for responsiveness and recovery. Further, supported by its constitutional mandate it sought to ensure that all processes leading to the recovery efforts were exercised within the parameters of enjoyment of gender rights by holders while grounded on an inclusive approach that was comprehensive and well-rounded to the needs and necessities of affected communities.

Generally, like all disasters the floods brought a bleak horizon and despair among the affected community members of Budiro and Kuwadzana suburbs. Key challenges noted during the assessment were related to physiological issues related to social and economic needs of the affected households during their temporary dwelling at the evacuation centre. Some of the concerns flagged out with regards to include: inadequate food provision, lack of sanitary wear for women and girls, unavailability of mosquito nets, part time jobs or employment and airtime and transport for camp administrators. However, no details have been provided on the plans

for assistance with education places, fees and uniforms for school going children. Moreover, most families lost their documents. Uncertainty on the next steps contained to be the major contention that kept the households on edge and agitated.

The findings revealed a disturbing situation in which the affected households or families were found in and worsening their predicament, was uncertainty surrounding a permanent solution to their situation.

Based on the evidence generated from the assessment key recommendations are proposed which emphasise the need for tailored services to cater for comprehensive responsiveness in light of disaster planning, preparedness, responsiveness and recovery. To address the plight of the survivors and ensure their gendered rights are safeguarded in line with the international standards and principles such as the Kampala convention on displaced people the key recommendations focus on: fast-tracking the finalization and enactment of the Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection Bill, developing a National Compensation and Relocation Framework investing in appropriate infrastructure on drainage system to manage water flow and floods, strengthening enforcement of wetland protection laws and regulations, increase public awareness on the ecological importance and risks of wetlands degradation.

1. Introduction

Disasters, though often perceived as indiscriminate forces, exhibit inequitable impact on various segments of society. Gender emerges as a critical factor shaping vulnerability and resilience in the face of these events. Recognizing and addressing the gendered dimensions and dynamics of disasters is not merely a matter of social justice, but a vital prerequisite for effective preparedness, response and recovery efforts that entails formulation of gender sensitive policies and programmes.

The 22 December 2023 floods that hit hard parts of Harare suburbs in Budiro and Kuwadzana provide a stark illustration of this principle. Even though the immediate devastation affected all residents, unfortunately, women, girls and other marginalized groups often bear the disproportionate burden of such events due to pre-existing social, cultural and economic inequalities. With manifestation of the inequalities evident in various forms that include limited access to resources, information, and decision-making power, this renders them more susceptible to the negative consequences of disasters and perpetuates further gender inequalities.

Concerned with the gendered dimensions of the floods disaster and its adverse impact on the lives as well as enjoyment of gender rights and needs, the Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC) in response to the urgent situation conducted a gender assessment of the floods impact in Budiro and Kuwadzana. The evaluation was carried in pursuit of the Commission's constitutional mandate that entails amongst other deliverables, to consistently monitor gender responsiveness in the provision of basic social services by government including its agencies and stakeholders as well as its responsiveness and management in mitigation of disaster impacts on people and communities.

This report presents the findings of the gender assessment, offering a critical lens to understand the multifaceted impact of the floods on individuals, families and the community at large and provide informed insights to shape formulation of comprehensive recovery strategies. Which aims to contribute to a more inclusive and just recovery process, that leaves no individual or group behind in line with the 2030 SDG Agenda and further strengthens community's resilience and coping mechanisms.



Therefore, findings of this assessment report will be shared with the relevant authorities for implementation and ZGC will engage in concerted advocacy for proactive and actioning of a comprehensive sector wide responsive and recovery mechanism to address the identified gaps.

2. Assessment Objectives

This assessment aimed to explore and understand the situation of the affected communities and responsiveness of the related disaster recovery and management processes premised on the following objectives:

1. Identify the gender differentiated impacts of floods on the affected households.
2. Assess the specific needs and vulnerabilities of different groups within the community.
3. Monitor the effectiveness and inclusivity of government response mechanisms in addressing the gendered needs of the affected population.

3. Methodology

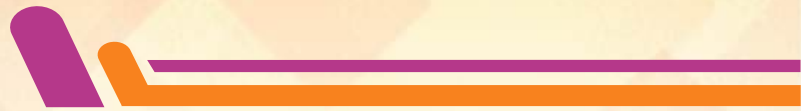
A multi-pronged approach informed the gender assessment of floods in Budiro and Kuwadzana settlements. A comprehensive desk review provided a holistic understanding of the flood problem in wetland settlements, encompassing contextual background, legal frameworks for gender-responsive disaster risk preparedness and response in Zimbabwe.

Concurrent with the desk review, field observations in Budiro and Kuwadzana areas further enriched the assessment by directly observing the situation on the ground to obtain first-hand information of the affected households. Further, focus group discussions and key informant interviews with survivors yielded deeper insights into their lived experiences, challenges and fears. Similarly, the interface unravelled the differential needs of survivors based on gender and other social markers.

In addition, further in-depth understanding of the underlying issues were obtained through key informant interviews conducted with the camp administrators of evacuation centres, the Department of Civil Protection, and the Ministry of Housing and Social Amenities provided multi-sectoral perspectives. It is acknowledged that sensitivity surrounding certain underlying issues posed challenges to stakeholder engagement in some instances.

4. Context Overview

Recent torrential rainfall in various parts of the country including Harare, which spanned over the last two weeks of December 2023, posed significant flood risks to low-lying areas following



an extended dry period. Budiriro 5B and Kuwadzana Paddocks emerged as the most critically impacted locations that were hit by floods on the night of 22 December 2023.

Apparently, Budiriro 5B is a high-density suburb in southwestern Harare with a history of informal settlements, who occupies a wetland adjacent to the Marimba River. The river enjoys a significant stretch amassing 25 km tributary traversing northern and western Harare, and in the process collects surface runoff from various density zones before discharging into Lake Chivero¹. Hence, the sustained downpours experienced on during the above-mentioned period overwhelmed Marimba River's capacity, triggering flooding in Budiriro 5B as depicted in the image below.



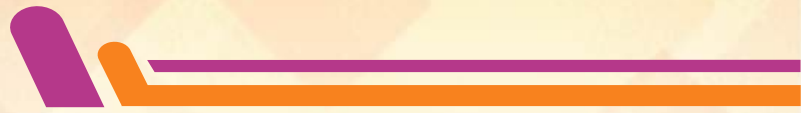
Image of an overflowing Marimba River in Budiriro 5B

Apparently, it is important to highlight that as gathered during the assessment that the area of 5B is perennially known to flooding. For the past three years since 2020 members of this community have continued to find themselves in the same predicament once the rain season sets on. Based from the discussions held, it was revealed that the affected members of the community had acquired the pieces of land or stands through a cooperative that was submerged within a broad consortium of 36 cooperatives with a membership of 1300. The allocation of stands within the broad consortium was phased approach and based on lottery picking among the cooperative beneficiaries.

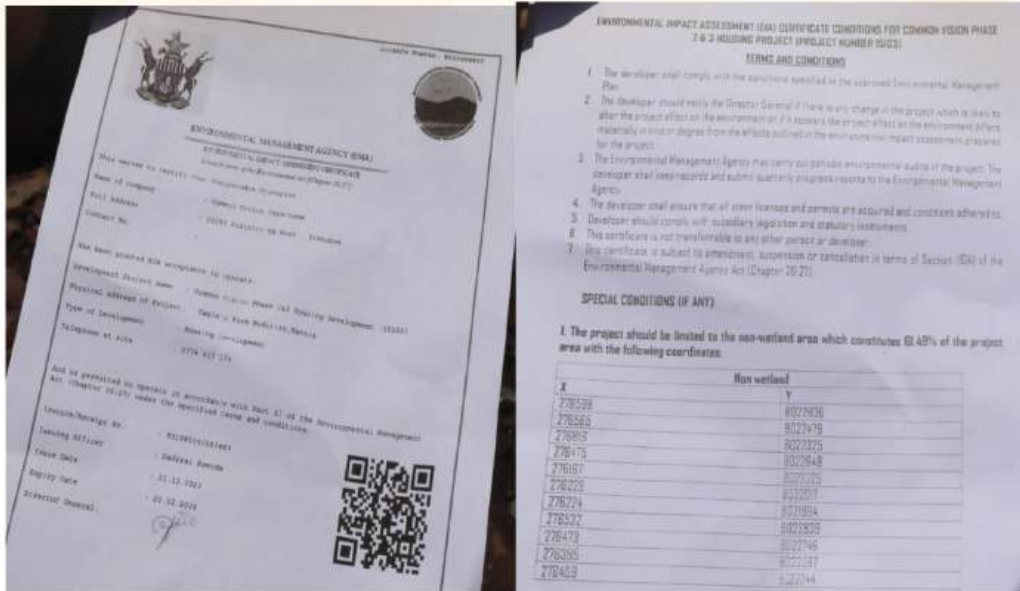
Apparently, majority of phase 3 recipients which consists of 451 households or stands were the most affected as their stands are either within the flood prone area whilst others are on safe zones. Unfortunately, 71 of these stands were situated in flood prone areas (wetlands), that lie

¹ Nhapi.I, Tirivarombo. S (2004) Sewage discharge and nutrient levels in Marimba River, Zimbabwe. Water SA Vol. 30 No. 1



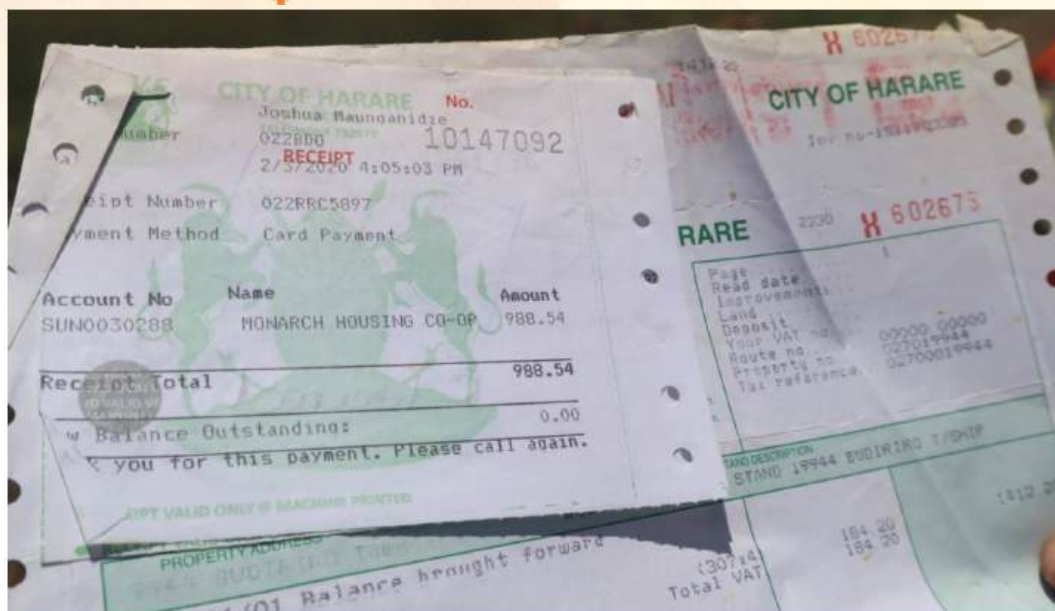


outside safe land for human settlements. The image below provides evidence of the Impact Assessment that was done by EMA for compliance of stands.



Impact Assessment report conducted by EMA on Budiriro 5B

Although the beneficiaries claim to have made numerous attempts to engage with the authorities thus the Council which allocated them land were in vain as to date no action was taken to relocate these households to safer land. Despite the settlers paying their rates to the council as expected, the area lacks basic amenities and infrastructure for habitation. Below is an image of council bill that was in possession of the settlers which they are issued on a monthly basis for payment of rates.



Council receipt acknowledging payment from Monarch housing cooperative beneficiary that was presented during the assessment

In addition to absence of proper roads, the community lacks sanitation facilities such as sewer, water and refuse services. Settlers rely on un protected wells and blair latrines which are both located on each miniature piece of stand and there are no systems to prevent contamination of the sewer residue and water from the unprotected well. One can only imagine the magnitude of how this situation pose an indefinite risk health hazard to the settlers.

Kuwadzana Paddocks, similarly affected by the floods, lies on the city's western border, south of the Harare-Bulawayo highway², and also features unauthorized settlements. These settlements occupy low-lying wetland areas, inherently susceptible to flooding, further exacerbating the risks faced by residents.

The combination of these factors, including informal settlements within flood-prone areas, inadequate drainage infrastructure, and the sheer volume of December rainfall, contributed to the observed flooding events in Budiriwo 5B and Kuwadzana Paddock.

5. Legal frameworks

5.1. Gender responsive disaster risk management

Zimbabwe is a signatory to several international legal frameworks that promote gender-responsive disaster risk management. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is a global framework that recognizes the importance of gender equality and

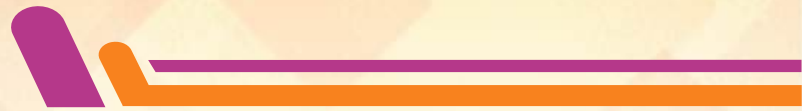
² Street Map of Harare (Map) (2002 ed.). Surveyor General, Zimbabwe.

women's empowerment for effective disaster risk reduction. It calls for States to collect and use sex-disaggregated data to inform disaster risk reduction programmes as well as to increase the participation of women, youth and persons with disability in decision making processes at all levels.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is a landmark agreement that calls for the equal participation and representation of women in all spheres of life including disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women prohibits discrimination against women in all areas, including disaster risk reduction. It requires States to take measures to ensure women's equal access to resources and opportunities, including during and after disasters.

At the regional front, there are several significant regional frameworks that have been ushered in response and provide a guiding framework for the protection and assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Africa. One such discerning framework is the Kampala convention which came into force on 6 December 2012 and binds governments to provide protection for the rights and well-being of those forced to displace within their country borders due to either conflict, violence, natural disasters, or development projects. It reaffirms that national authorities have the primary responsibility to provide assistance to internally displaced people and also recognizes the critical role that civil society organizations play in assisting IDPs. Further the convention obliges governments to assess the needs and vulnerabilities of the forcibly displaced, and the host communities, in order to address the plight of people in entirety. Similarly, the African Union Agenda 2063 calls for the creation of a disaster resilient Africa and recognizes the importance of gender equality in achieving this goal. Reinforcing further the principles and providing a road map is the Southern African Development Community Regional Disaster Risk Management Strategy (2019-2030) which emphasizes the need to mainstream gender into all aspects of disaster risk management.

At national level, the country has developed several national legal and policy frameworks that address gender responsive disaster risk reduction. The Constitution of Zimbabwe recognizes the right to life and the right to equality and non-discrimination, which includes in disaster situations. Zimbabwe's Civil Protection Act 10:06 of 1989 establishes the legal framework for disaster risk management in Zimbabwe, however the Act is gender blind as there is no integration of gender or gender considerations. The Act fails to acknowledge how different gender roles, responsibilities, needs, and capacities are critical in identifying, reduce, prepare,



and respond to disasters for effective disaster risk management and to better understand how to support women and girls as their own advocates and agents of change. Neither does the country has in place a comprehensive plan of action for recovery and reconstruction.

5.2. Protection of wetlands

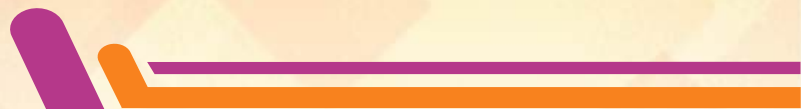
Wetlands play a pivotal role in Zimbabwe's ecosystem, providing essential services like flood control, water purification and biodiversity habitat. Zimbabwe has integrated wetland protection into its legal framework at various levels. Internationally, Zimbabwe is party to the Ramsar Convention on wetlands that obligates state parties to protect and promote the conservation of listed wetlands as well as all other wetlands within their territories. The Convention on Biological Diversity emphasizes the importance of conserving biological diversity and promoting sustainable use of natural resources, including wetlands. The SADC regional wetland strategy aims to guide SADC member states in sustainably managing and utilising their wetlands. Sustainable Development Goal 15.1 calls on member states to ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services in particular wetlands in line with obligations under international agreements.

Nationally, section 73 the Constitution of Zimbabwe recognizes the right to a clean and healthy environment, indirectly valuing wetlands for their ecological functions. Section 97 and 113 of the Environmental Management Act provides wetlands with stringent protection by prohibiting the draining or disturbance of wetlands without written authorisation from authorities from the Environmental Management Agency and authorities responsible for water resources. A Draft Wetlands Policy is currently in place and lays out a comprehensive framework for managing and utilizing wetlands sustainably. It emphasizes the importance of integrating wetland protection into urban development planning.

Zimbabwe's legal framework concerning urban settlements and wetland protection is confronted with a complex task of balancing development needs with environmental sustainability. This factor has led to the sprouting of residential settlements on wetland areas around Zimbabwe, Budiriro 5B and Kuwadzana Paddock areas included.

6. Key findings and analysis

The section presents findings drawn from the assessment questions that were obviously developed and linked to the objectives of the assessment. The findings cover demographic



characteristics of the survivors, lived experiences, gendered impact of the floods and challenges faced.

6.1. Socio- Demographic Characteristics

A disaggregated analysis of demographic data from the Budiro and Kuwadzana evacuation centres reveals a noteworthy trend as shown in the tables below.

Budiro 3 Primary School Evacuation Centre		
Age	Sex	
	F	M
0-5 years	6	3
6-17 years	11	6
18 and above	26	4
TOTAL	43	13
Number of families: 18		

Kuwadzana 2 Primary School Evacuation Centre		
Sex	F	M
		8
Under 18 years: 9		
Adults: 8		
Number of families:4		
TOTAL NO of Victims:17		

There is a significant overrepresentation of women and girls compared to men and boys. This disparity reveals the differentiated impacts of the flooding situation and the gendered roles embedded within these communities. Understanding these gendered dynamics is crucial for developing targeted interventions and ensuring equitable access to resources and support during the recovery process.

6.2. Impact of the floods

6.2.1. Gender roles and responsibilities

Pre-existing gender roles and responsibilities in the affected communities, characterized by women and girls primarily handling domestic labour and men and boys engaging in wage-earning activities outside the home, were significantly amplified by the flood crisis. This is reflected in the evacuation centre demographics, with a higher proportion of women and girls residing there.

The crisis exacerbated pre-existing inequalities by intensifying the burden of care and domestic labour for women and girls. With limited resources and cramped conditions, women at the evacuation centres face the immense challenge of ensuring their children's well-being, including their nutritional needs and hygiene, under constant resource constraints and rationing. The communal cooking system further burdens women and girls with the responsibility of

preparing large meals. Additionally, a post-flood diarrhoea outbreak added to women's burden, requiring increased care for family members.

Men, traditionally viewed as breadwinners, are also experiencing heightened pressure due to the economic disruption caused by the floods. Men are grappling with the increased financial responsibility of supporting their families despite the loss of income and livelihood opportunities. This has resulted in a sense of helplessness and frustration, as they struggle to fulfil their traditional role as providers in a situation beyond their control.

6.2.2. Loss of documentation

A critical consequence of the floods was the extensive loss of vital documentation among affected households. Interviews revealed that a significant majority of flood victims reported losing essential documents, including national identity cards, passports and birth certificates as well as educational certificates. This loss presents serious challenges for re-establishing personal identities, accessing essential services, securing livelihoods and professional employment in the future.

6.2.3. Destruction of household goods and property

Although the floodwaters may have caused minimal structural damage to the houses of affected individuals, the impact on their household contents and personal belongings was significant. Interviews revealed widespread loss of essential property, leaving many families facing immense hardships.

The floods swept away a large portion of household goods which include cooking utensils, wardrobes, couches and other furniture items suffering extensive damage or complete destruction. This loss disrupted the affected household's ability to maintain a minimum standard of living and overall comfort.



ZGC Vice Chairperson Commissioner O. Matshalaga in Budiriro assessing the extent of damage caused by the floods

Furthermore, the floods contaminated and destroyed vital supplies of food and clothing. This compounded the existing food insecurity situation and left families struggling to meet their basic needs. The loss of clothing and blankets caused additional challenges, particularly for children and vulnerable individuals, exposing them to health risks and compromising their dignity.

The destruction of household goods and property extends beyond the immediate economic losses. Apart from practically grounding them to zero, it represents a disruption of normalcy and a loss of personal connection to possessions that hold sentimental value. These losses contribute to the emotional and psychological distress experienced by flood victims, hindering their ability to cope and rebuild their lives.

6.2.4. Disruption of economic livelihoods

The floods dealt a severe blow to the economic livelihoods of affected households, particularly those relying on the informal sector. Assessment findings revealed that a substantial majority of household heads were engaged in informal work, such as street vending, small-scale trade, or casual labour. The disruption of these precarious livelihoods which have limited social protection and households depending on daily income pushed families further into vulnerability and despair.

The floodwaters inflicted direct financial losses on informal workers through various mechanisms. Business inventories were swept away or destroyed, resulting in a loss of capital



and income. Access to work sites and markets was often hindered, leading to lost business opportunities and reduced productivity. Many individuals were forced to abandon their work completely due to flood damage to their workplaces or equipment.

Beyond the immediate financial losses, the floods caused indirect economic burdens. Time spent on salvaging belongings, relocating to evacuation centres, or caring for sick family members took away from income-generating activities. The destruction of essential tools and equipment further limited potential earnings. It is important to note that the disruption of economic livelihoods disproportionately affected women as they have extra burden of caring for their families as compared to their male counterparts.

The disruption of informal livelihoods created increased financial insecurity amongst the survivors which posed significant impact on household well beingness, mental health and maintenance of social relationships as they suffered from recurring thoughts on how to meet basic welfare needs, accessing healthcare, and sending children to school considering income loss.

6.2.5. Loss of life

It is sad to note that one fatality was experienced from the flood situation in Budiriro. A six-year-old girl was swept away by the heavy current of the flood, causing emotional and psychological disruption to the family and community members.

6.2.6. Contamination of water sources

Contamination of water sources was experienced in the affected areas as the majority of these settlements relied on water from shallows wells. This was further affected by poor planning as some of the wells lay in the pathway of Blair toilets. The contamination of water sources led to a post-flooding outbreak of diarrhoea which greatly affected children of the affected households.

6.2.7. Government response to the situation

Government response through the Civil Protection Unit was swift with response being provided within 24 hours of the disaster. However, information obtained from key informant interviews and community interviews highlighted that the affected households resisted when they were offered with evacuation support. While most of the affected households eventually agreed to be housed at evacuation centres, some individuals and households still refused to leave behind the little that was left of what they call home.

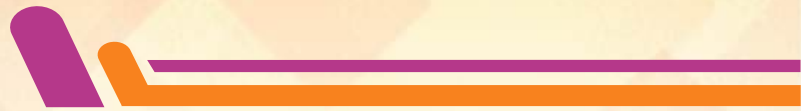


ZGC Vice Chairperson Commissioner O. Matshalaga (in white) having an interface with Budiriro evacuation centre Camp Administrators

6.2.8. Living Conditions at evacuation centres



ZGC officials at the Budiriro 3 Primary School Evacuation Centre



The assessment findings revealed that there were separate sleeping rooms for men and women, ensuring privacy and security. Each classroom housed approximately 6-7 families, offering a temporary haven from the disaster's impact. While families received mattresses for basic comfort, the report documented instances where some families, unfortunately, did not receive this essential item as they were in shortage supply.



A family corner without a mattress

Both evacuation centres had sufficient supply of potable borehole water sourced within the school premises. Existing school toilets served as ablution facilities, providing sanitation infrastructure for evacuees. To supplement existing facilities, tents were erected and designated as bathing areas, to ensure personal hygiene.



Tent being used as a bathroom at Budiriro 3 Primary School





6.2.9. Support Received

Families accommodated at Kuwadzana and Budiroo evacuation centres received support in the form of food and non-food items from various stakeholders as shown in the table below.

Stakeholders	Form Support Availed
CPU	Food items
City of Harare	Meat, Maize meal, Fruits and Vegetables,
Red Cross Society	Cooking oil
Zimbabwe Human Rights Association	Non-food items
Dan Church Aid	Buckets, Oral Rehydration Solution packs,
Welthungerhilfe	Water guard, green bar soap, hygiene kits,
IOM	mattresses, blankets, clothes, shoes
Mavambo Orphan Care	Psychosocial support, Counselling
Gift of the Givers	

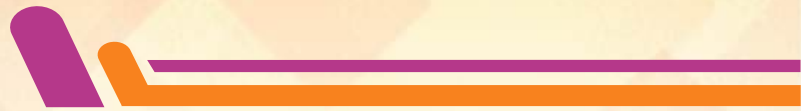


ZGC Officials checking items in the hygiene pack provided to displaced households at the evacuation centre

6.2.10. Identified needs

Displaced households primarily emphasized the critical need for sustainable housing solutions as a foundation for rebuilding their lives. Secondary needs that were highlighted as essential during their temporary stay at evacuation centres include the following-;





- Food (including fruit and vegetable)
- Cooking utensils
- Firewood
- Mattresses
- Blankets
- Clothes and shoes
- Soap and detergents
- Sanitary Wear and Baby Diapers
- Sexual and reproductive health services (Family planning)
- Entertainment
- Toys and educational material for children
- Psychosocial support for displaced families
- Part time jobs and funds to revive their businesses
- Airtime and transport for Camp Administrators

6.2.11. Relocation plan for displaced households

While short-term relocation plans exist for the impacted households, long-term housing solutions remain unclear. This uncertainty casts a shadow over the future stability and well-being of these families.

7. Recommendations

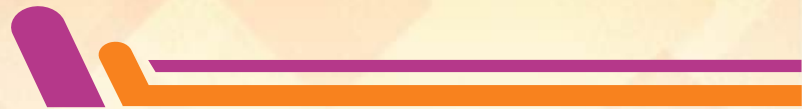
In view of addressing pertinent needs, the following recommendations are proposed to the duty bearers mentioned below for consideration and implementation.

Sector	Action
Ministry of Local Government and Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast-track the finalization and enactment of the Disaster Risk Management and Civil Protection Bill. The Bill should acknowledge the need to mainstream Gender in all disaster management processes. • Develop a National Compensation and Relocation Framework. This framework should ensure fair and equitable compensation for displaced communities which is inclusive of all groups. • Ensure adequate staffing and security at evacuation centres representing both genders for effective responsiveness to their needs particularly women's safety and privacy concerns.





	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consult and frequently update affected households on the disaster risk management plan and engage them in the planning and decision-making for ownership of the process.• Develop a complaint handling system for use at evacuation centres and raise its awareness amongst the affected communities.• Strengthen and monitor disaster early warning systems and utilize diverse and easily accessible channels of communication to disseminate early warning information in times of disaster.
Ministry of National Housing and Social Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritize relocating families from high-risk flood zones to safe and planned and serviced settlements.• Strengthen development of high rising building for provision of affordable housing in planned settlements to reducing informal settlements and pressure on wetlands.
City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create by-laws that provides punitive measures for non-compliance on land use and closely monitor and enforce such measures to curb land barons.• Establish and implement a robust regulatory framework for land use planning that prioritizes flood plain protection and prohibits new settlements in high-risk areas.• Explore and promote sustainable land-use practices around wetlands, such as eco-tourism, parks and recreation areas or rainwater harvesting projects.• Invest in drainage systems and infrastructure upgrades to manage flooding risks and prohibit development in flood-prone areas near wetlands.
Environmental Management Agency (EMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen wetland protection laws and regulations: Ensure clear and rigorous policies that define wetlands, prohibit development and activities that degrade them, and outline stringent penalties for violations.• Integrate wetland protection into broader land-use planning, designating floodplains, buffer zones and green spaces around existing settlements to discourage encroachment.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public outreach campaigns: Launch targeted campaigns to raise awareness about the ecological importance and benefits of wetlands, highlighting the risks of their degradation.
<p>Registrar Department</p> <p>General's</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgently provide documentation (National ID's, Birth Certificates, Passports) to flood victims in Budiro and Kuwadzana.

8. Conclusion

This gender assessment explored the differentiated experiences of men and women during the Budiro and Kuwadzana flood situation. It has illuminated the disproportionate vulnerabilities faced by women and girls, who often shoulder the burden of unpaid care work in the form of childcare, fending family, and securing essential resources in crisis situations. While the report acknowledges the commendable efforts of various stakeholders in providing support, it also underscores critical gaps in addressing gender-specific needs. The recommendations outlined in this report serve as a roadmap for navigating future flood situations with a gender-responsive lens. By integrating these recommendations into disaster preparedness, response and recovery plans, stakeholders can strive towards a more equitable and resilient society.





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