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## Highlights

- The government-enforced COVID-19 control measures had slightly been lifted during April and May however, cases escalated again in June. This prevented face to face meetings, training, and inter-city travels during the last month of the quarter as the government imposed hard lockdown measures.
- The Zimbabwe National Logistics Sector (ZNLS) meetings were held in April and May 2021 to enhance coordination and information sharing.
- Various meetings were hosted in Manicaland, Bulawayo, Masvingo, Mashonaland Central, and Mashonaland West provinces to provide support to government's Provincial Civil Protection Units. A focus was put on emergency warehouse assessments activities for government and updating key stakeholders regarding the progress in implementing the Project's Action Plan.

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## Background

The Field-Based Preparedness Project started in Zimbabwe in February 2020 and is co-led by the Department of Civil Protection (DCP) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Its objective is to enable a coordinated and proactive approach towards improving local supply chain resilience in Zimbabwe.

During the April to June 2021 period, the National Logistics Preparedness Officer continued the collaboration endeavour with DCP towards the Action Plan implementation. The Project sustained operations under a largely constrained environment due to the COVID-19 containment measures instituted by the government. Participation of stakeholders in meetings and engagement to facilitate implementation of the Action Plan was a challenge due to remote working modalities, other competing priorities, and ongoing COVID-19 response efforts in which humanitarian partners and government are heavily involved in.

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## Coordination

Through the reporting period, the ZNLS held several coordination meetings. Following the membership updating process – since some partners experienced movement in staff –, a need to further share and discuss the ZNLS working group terms of reference and encourage members participation was identified.

The ZNLS members participated in various technical working groups. The National Civil Protection Committee meeting, hosted by DCP, and the OCHA hosted meetings where notably there were discussions on the proposal for the Training on Emergency Preparedness Planning for Sub-national and National Structures that will be led by DCP, UNICEF and OCHA.

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## Information Management

The use of WhatsApp as a common and simple information sharing platform for ZNLS members was launched. A WhatsApp group was set-up and a link shared for people to join voluntarily.

Efforts continued with DCP to socialise the Physical Access Constraints (PAC) tool at sub-national level. Manicaland, Bulawayo, Masvingo, Mashonaland Central, and Mashonaland West provinces were visited, and various meetings held with key stakeholders.

## Advocacy and Capacity Strengthening

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The National Logistics Preparedness Officer participated in focus group discussions for the development of the WFP Zimbabwe Supply Chain Strategy to align with the WFP Zimbabwe 2022 –2027 Country Strategic Plan (CSP). The meeting participants reviewed the Supply Chain Unit's role in Emergency Preparedness and Response. The focus on capacity strengthening is being advocated for as a key aspect for Zimbabwe to improve Emergency Preparedness and Response.

The plans for the first warehouse management training for government officers is at an advanced stage. Training will focus on basic and key concepts targeting officers responsible for receipts, dispatches, and custody of goods (mainly food and non-food relief items for government's emergency response efforts). The training dates will be determined once the government lockdown measures are eased, and face-to-face interactions resumed.

## Contacts

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