**THE danish emergency relief fund**

**HUMANITARIAN intervention**

***Revised 19-03-2019: all changes marked with red***

**Improved Food Security: School Meal Intervention, Lupane district, Zimbabwe**





DERF: Zimbabwe, Protection and Food Security Crisis (19-001-RO)



Index

[Relevance, appropriateness and timeliness of the intervention 3](#_Toc1985510)

[Partnership 5](#_Toc1985511)

[Target groups 5](#_Toc1985512)

[Sector specific information: 7](#_Toc1985513)

[Strategy and expected results of the intervention 7](#_Toc1985514)

Organisational capacity assessment

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| Has your organisation prequalified for DERF funding? | *No - application for prequalification is attached* |

Application text

# Relevance, appropriateness and timeliness of the intervention

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| ***The nature of the crisis, how it is likely to develop over the next months and its impact on the target group.***As mentioned in the DERF Call, the current political/security situation in Zimbabwe combined with the severe effect of climate change (drought) has sparked social unrest and large-scale protests by organised civil society, leading to critical levels of food insecurity[[1]](#footnote-1). Recent deterioration of both access to basic food provisions and the general security situation has been deeply felt in the communities and areas in which the local partner Christian Youth Volunteers Trust (CYVAT) operates. Due to its focus on particular vulnerable juveniles and children, CYVAT has clearly identified that particular children from the most vulnerable groups in society are impacted by food insecurity as food prices are staggering and access is impaired due to increasing security risks. It is estimated that around 51% of the population in rural areas are facing hunger, compared to 28% in 2018[[2]](#footnote-2). If not addressed, the humanitarian need will only increase.***Available resources and structures within the local context of the crisis which can be drawn upon in addressing life-saving and protection needs of the target group***The local implementing partner, CYVAT, was founded in 1996, and has vast experience and capacity in carrying out children and youth related activities, among other in relation to food security and school feeding programs. The main structure applied and drawn upon is through the existing School Development Committees (SDCs), in addition to school management and local educational authorities, to secure involvement of parents and civil society in the activities conducted. The SDCs are a civil society pillar of the school system and generally consist of 7 members (the school head, ward councillor, local leader and representatives of the parents). The SDCs actively partake in the continuous development of schools and can be drawn upon and mobilised for this intervention, as they represent an existing and trusted outreach structure. Regarding the schools selected for this intervention, CYVAT already implements projects in consultation with these committees, and therefore has the internal capacity to rapidly mobilise the selected SDCs for new activities and reach target groups. The organisation has a broad skills base both in relation to development (mobilising and organising) but also in relation to distribution, and is therefore well positioned for implementing a school meal intervention. **Identify and address any potential bottlenecks in implementation;** The aim of the intervention is to establish a school feeding program at selected primary schools, providing the product ePap (a highly nutritious porridge already used in Zimbabwe, can be ordered locally). Once these feeding programs are in place, altering them can meet strong resistance. However, a range of new experiences will be available and have the potential to alleviate some of the common obstacles to efficient and effective programming. The SDCs and parent groups at the schools of intervention will be involved in the daily decision-making on the intervention and in the monitoring of activities. With respect to continued delivery of the product, it is important to stress that a storage facility is located in Bulawayo, so distribution can begin immediately and stock is held locally. ePap is ISO 22000 accredited, approved by the Zimbabwe Ministry of Health and Medicine Council and fully compliant with all relevant Zimbabwe legislation. Further, ePap Zimbabwe has guaranteed support and will formulate a translated introduction to the product and include general good practice in nutrition. See Annex I.***Potential contribution of the proposed intervention towards saving lives and responding to urgent protection needs of the target group – and in addition to this, in the case of DERF Funding Modality 2, the contribution of the intervention towards supporting target group capacities to participate in a transition towards early recovery*** The present intervention is a food security oriented intervention with focus on securing a basic diet to vulnerable children. The present initiative is seen as a response to general food insecurity and urgent needs, yet with a positive benefit of also improving learning. In a longer-term perspective, it is evident that children who are hungry or chronically malnourished are less able to learn. To address this, the intervention will also provide seeds for crop production to initiate/boost continued school gardening activities, as funding for such activities are low or non-existing, but of high value in order to promote healthy nutrition. The seeds will take the emergency intervention (M1) towards more stabilising efforts (M2), supplementing each other. CYVAT has experience within working with schools (SDCs, teachers, students) regarding school gardening, and will be able to facilitate organisation and provide trainings for implementation. ***The timeliness of the proposed intervention***Zimbabwe has been facing food insecurity for the last years, and it is estimated that more than 72,000 children are at high risk of malnutrition in the districts of Zimbabwe[[3]](#footnote-3), and the intervention is therefore deemed timely and highly relevant. Due to the close proximity of the food solution to be applied in the school feeding program and also the well-established connection between the local authorities, parents’ community and CYVAT, it is expected that the school feeding program can be in place within few weeks of the approval of the funding. An initial baseline assessment survey will be launched within a day’s notice of approval of funding, to ensure a detailed overview of the composition of the target group and physical conditions of the children, and for monitoring purposes. The survey will be conducted parallel with an order being placed with the local provider (in Bulawayo) of the ePap nutrition product. Due to a downward spiralling security situation in the country, the intervention will use the direct access to the students strategically and perform gender sensitive security briefings for students at each school.  |
| ***Explain how you will start your activities in 7 days and finish within the duration of the proposed intervention.***CYVAT will initiate the baseline survey immediately after funding has been approved. Both local school authorities and the specific school level SDCs will be the main coordination partners, and will be contacted and organised under facilitation of CYVAT within the first week. Simultaneously, a first initial order will be placed with local storage of ePap in Bulawayo, to have it ready for distribution immediately after the survey has been finalised and data analysed.  |
| ***How are you co-ordinating, and with whom?*** The intervention will be coordinated with SDCs, school management and line ministries in order to gain local ownership, secure transparency and accountability in the distribution process and official approval of intervention. |
| ***What will success look like, and in what time frame?***A main indicator of success is the physical condition of the beneficiaries. As part of the initial survey of the children, their physical conditions like body measurements will be taken and form a baseline for the evaluation of the final success of the project. As the current crisis warrants a response directed toward securing basic nutrition for the vulnerable children, we are at present stage not targeting the learning indicators for success - the time span is to short and the security situation in the areas of intervention does not guarantee a fruitful learning environment. Children’s health is the main focus. See Annex II for explanation of health impact and Annex III for questionnaire to be applied. |

# Partnership

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| **Describe the contributions, roles and areas of responsibility of all partners of the proposed intervention including each partner’s implementation responsibility. *(maximum 5 bullet points)**** CYVAT: local implementing partner – will complement the government effort by providing school meals to 4 selected schools in cooperation with SDCs and local authorities
* CYVAT will monitor the project to enable EWB-DK and CYVAT to identify challenges and adjust strategies that will improve the project. Reporting to lead partner EWB-DK will initially be on a weekly basis and later on a monthly basis.
* Care4People: contribute to facilitation of international communication, local contact/network and knowledge/experience with context and activities.
* EWB-DK: will be mainly responsible for the reporting on progress to donors and for financial management in DK. Financial management will be pursued through an online shared drive in order to have full access and transparency in management of funds.
* EWB-DK thematic group on food security will support the project team on technical advice.
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# Target groups

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| **Planned target population[[4]](#footnote-4)** |
| **Type of Activity** | **Female (by age)** | **Male (by age)** | **Total** |
| **Under** **18** | **Over** **50** | **Between** **18-50** | **Under** **18** | **Over** **50** | **Between** **18-50** |  |
| **School feeding program targeting a number of ca. 250 children per schools at 4 schools**  | 407 |  |  | 402 |  |  | 809 |
| **School Development Committees** |  |  | 14 |  |  | 14 | 28 |
| **Gender sensitive security briefing at schools**  | 407 |  | 10 | 402 |  | 10 | 829 |
| **School gardening activities** | 200 |  | 10 | 200 |  | 10 | 420 |
| **Total:**  | 814 |  | 10 | 804 |  | 10 | 2457 |
| **Total adjusted for double counting:** | **407** |  | **10** | **402** |  | **10** | **829** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **How do you calculate the number of people who shall be assisted through the various activities?** Around 5.3 million people in Zimbabwe are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance[[5]](#footnote-5), and more than half of the population in rural areas are facing alarming levels of food insecurity, and this intervention will therefore target rural areas of Zimbabwe. More specifically, four primary schools in the Lupane district have been selected[[6]](#footnote-6). The schools each have between 200-250 children enrolled, and it is estimated that the intervention will reach approx. 850 children in urgent need of improved food security. The children will further benefit from school gardening activities, where it is aimed that the older students and teachers participate. **Secondary beneficiaries** will be the SDC at each school, which will build experience in managing and monitoring this intervention, hence gain valuable experience in parents’ involvement and local mobilisation concerning activities at school (strategic service delivery and leverage point). **Which vulnerable groups are you specifically targeting *(Note that you can include budget for additional vulnerability assessments as relevant in the application to DERF)*? *Please explain*** The intervention targets young children as a specifically vulnerable group. CYVAT will train and work with each SDC initially, in order to form part of local monitoring and evaluation activities and to establish a firm and direct way of communication between the CYVAT team and each of the SDCs. The main focus will be to make all members of the committee and the whole parents’ community aware of the intervention and its activities, to ensure transparency and accountability. During the baseline survey it will be assessed whether there are especially vulnerable children (e.g. disabled, orphaned) at the schools who will need extra attention or closer follow-up during the intervention.  |
| **Explain how the target population has been and will be involved in your proposed intervention *(maximum 5 bullet points****)** Community liaison with leaders and meetings with the teachers and SDCs.
* Holding sensitisation meeting with the stakeholders.
* Training of the teachers on food handling to ensure maximum hygiene.
* Holding meetings with the parents at every school.
* Labour support from the teachers in feeding the pupils and labour from the parents in watering the nutrition gardens.
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| **Explain how you plan to be able to identify and respond to potential complaints from the target population in regards to the implementation of the proposed intervention and / or the conduct of implementing organisations / personnel. *(maximum 5 bullet points).**** CYVAT’s local team will be the first responder on any complaints presented from community level or from other stakeholders. All stakeholders will from the beginning of the initiative be informed of how to secure transparency in activities and where to direct complaints (to the project management). CYVAT’s management must record all complaints and how they have been addresses/resolved. Main responsible is the project management, however if complaint / query cannot be resolved, EWB-DK is to be informed and the leadership of CYVAT will need to address the issues. Information on EWB-DK’s complaint mechanism will also be provided to local stakeholders.
* During the initial launch of work with the school development committees, training modules for conflict resolution will be conducted
* In order to secure full transparency and fluent communication at community level, local leaders will be engaged. Communication strategies will be discussed with the leaders to have the local custodians of the Law providing legitimacy to the intervention and the activities conducted. Participation of the local leaders is crucial in case of conflict or complaints, as they will on-ground form part of the mediating measures to be applied.
* Stock registers will be available to all schools to ensure transparency and accountability. All schools will be encouraged and obtain assistance if needed in order to put their ePap stock in a secured place to avoid burglary.
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| **Explain how you plan to source your goods *(please tick all boxes that apply)***In-country/locally: CYVAT has initiated conversations with a supplier of ePap that is placed in Bulawayo. The prices negotiated include transport from the producer to the warehouse in Bulawayo, quotation of prices attached expire 10 March 2019. Payment is to be made directly to the producer in South Africa – details to be provided on confirmation of order. ePap porridge will be supplied to all schools by a local supplier, CYVAT will monitor the distribution. CYVAT will purchase seeds and garden inputs for all schools from National Tested Seeds - a local company. |

# Sector specific information:

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| What sectors will the proposed intervention’s activities most relate to (please tick ALL that apply)? | * *WASH*
* *Health X*
* *Shelter*
* *Nutrition X*
* *Camp Management*
* *Education*
* *Protection X*
* *Emergency FSL*
* *Other (specify)*
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# Strategy and expected results of the intervention

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| **Describe objective(s), activities, expected outputs and indicators to be applied****Overall objective:** the project aims at achieving lasting school and community capacities to adapt to socio-ecological shocks and stresses, and establish improved food security and nutrition diversity, sustainable livelihoods enabling environments for resilience. **Immediate objective:** *Improved nutrition and health to vulnerable children in the Lupane district of Zimbabwe.* The intervention strategy includes distribution of school meals, a participatory process and ownership by SDCs and parent communities, alignment with official national programmes on school meals/approval by authorities, and awareness raising on gender sensitive security issues. Activities consist of:* Initial approval by Zimbabwean authorities to launch the school feeding program at the identified potential schools,
* School activities: On boarding of each SDC; baseline survey,; Training of committees and schools in ePap Technology; Nutrition garden management; Community Risk Reduction Management/conflict resolution to improve ways of handling shocks and stresses and potential conflicts,
* Daily meals for vulnerable children (priority to most vulnerable hereunder a priority to girls),
* Where possible provide seeding and support the efforts at school gardens in order to promote improved nutrition at household level
* Gender sensitive security briefing at school for students
* Final survey as part of the evaluation of intervention.

Indicators include 1) distribution of ePap to 4 schools, 2) 850 children have improved food security and balanced diet (access to one meal a day), 3) 4 schools receive support in creating sustainable food safety nets in form of school management nutrition garden, 4) 4 committees have participated in selected trainings, and 5) 800 students have increased their knowledge on ongoing security risk and how to mitigate security incidents.The intervention will initially address the urgent need for increased food security (M1). As a transitioning towards stabilising efforts (M2) and as part of an exit strategy, the intervention will provide seeds (to be identified upon intervention launch) for crop production at school gardens. The intervention is intended to last 9 months, and the school meal program will run for the same amount of months. It is hoped that through capacity building and the M2 efforts, the food security situation at the selected schools will slowly improve.  |
| **Describe how and with which methods the proposed intervention is to be carried increasing the likelihood that it may lead to the objectives defined and avoid potential negative effects on the target group** * Direct engagement and ownership by the school development committees is to ensure feedback, input and secure delivery to each beneficiary child
* Applying an already officially approved technology mitigates conflict with authorities and official policy.
* Collaboration of expertise from ePap ensures correct application of the technology and access to information and possibility of consultation if needed.
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| **Describe how the proposed intervention strengthens local ownership and capacities.**Ownership will be categorised in two groups: 1) the community 2) the local partner* The community, particularly the parents’ community, in the localities of intervention will be engaged in all steps of the intervention and local ownership fostered through engaging traditional leaders and the SDCs
* The local partner will be the full custodian of the project and will involve the key local stakeholders from the planning and implementation stage of the project as well as monitoring the project. This will create a sense of ownership, which may also help in project sustainability.
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| **Describe the risks to a successful intervention, and how you are managing them.** Expected risks include system security (theft and misuse), increase in demand for more facility without funding, burn-out from SDC members (as volunteers this may affect motivation), or slow adoption of ePap. To mitigate, partners will engage with schools to extend duties of their local security system towards the initiative, and ensure schools create reserves and introduce marketing components as the gardens experience abundant production. Intervention failure would be minimized by training the SDCs and fully equipping them with knowledge of sustaining the intervention as well as promoting replications of the garden component at family level as a way of strengthening the household nutrition. At local level CYVAT will be main partner to ensure risk and safety for beneficiaries and staff involved – see Organisational Capacity Assessment for qualifications.  |
| **Describe the monitoring for documentation of achievement of results and lessons learnt accountability and learning systems that you will employ.** Measures to secure monitoring and documentation in this intervention include: * To assess and evaluate the trends, an M&E system for daily and subsequently monitoring will be constructed. Standard monitoring and accountability templates (project monitoring overview) will be developed specifically to this response, and day by day records will be archived. A set up goal will clearly mark desired results and their indicators.
* Checklists for in-field monitoring will be constructed and instructed to EWB-DK and CYVAT staff and volunteers. A beneficiary database will be kept in office (online), updated daily and shared with all partners involved. The intervention and checklist to guide actions will be formulated based on the core principles of CHS with the objective to secure participation and active engagement of the affected communities and also to ensure maximum protection for the vulnerable groups and known access point respect to claims.
* As part of its standard program approach, EWB-DK and CYVAT will hold monthly online meetings. Implementing partner CYVAT will hold monthly meetings with SDCs to review project progress on ground as well as feedback on success. In the inception phase (first month) intervention will be “hand held” and each school will be visited several times a week in order to secure successful launch of the program. Quarterly meetings will be held between relevant local stakeholders to gather knowledge and expertise to ensure continuity and transparency.
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1. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Press%20release%20USG%20Lowcock%20Zimbabwe\_Feb2019.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-11/zimbabwe-food-insecurity-surges-on-economic-shocks-agency-says [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/2019-zimbabwe-flash-appeal-january-june-2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. See Annex IV for details on enrolment pr. school [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/2019-zimbabwe-flash-appeal-january-june-2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Manganganga PS; Phumakanye PS; Mzola 27 PS and Sitshongo PS. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)