APPLICATION FORM – humanitarian Intervention: EARLY ACTION

X Yes: reference no.: 17-60-OC Financial ceiling: > 1 Mio.

No – if no, an OCA application must be submitted together with the intervention application.

Has your organization prequalified for DERF funding?

## The humanitarian intervention

* **What is the overall purpose, including the objectives, activities, expected results and indicators to be applied?**

As outlined in the early warning report by FAO, Zimbabwe is highly affected by severe drought and food insecurity. This intervention aims to reduce food insecurity for 410 households in the urban settlement of Epworth. Epworth is an overpopulated slummy and informal settlement with high rates of poverty, crimes and unemployment, making it particularly prone to food insecurity. A worsening of the food security crisis in the area will have major consequences for vulnerable households and in particularly vulnerable children.

The overall goal of the intervention is “to support food insecure children and families in Epworth, Zimbabwe with essential early action to mitigate anticipated food crisis”. The intervention applies one immediate objective to contribute to the overall goal. The objective is that **410 vulnerable households in Epworth, Zimbabwe become food secure through growing fast-maturing nutritious seeds and keeping poultry/ruminants.** The intervention applies a conditional and restricted cash-transfer modality to reach the objective directly based on the recommendations by FAO. 410 households (HH) will be identified and oriented on the early response intervention (output 1.1) to prepare and involve them in the response from the beginning of the project. The selection process will happen in cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare and key selection criteria will include the level of children’s vulnerability. 410 HH will participate in a livelihood training (output 1.2) to improve essential livelihood skills and capability of cultivating vegetables and keeping poultry/ruminants. Target HH must attend one training to receive the cash grant. This is to ensure that beneficiaries use the cash grant as intended and to increase impact of the vegetable gardens and poultry/ruminant projects. Individual vegetable gardens will be established in Community Garden Setups (described in greater detail below) as target HH doesn’t have access to their own land and as establishment of irrigation systems (output 1.3) are needed to cultivate gardens. Finally, 410 HH will receive a conditional and restricted cash grants disbursed in two installments to ensure cash is used as intended (output 1.4).

|  |
| --- |
| **OVERALL GOAL: Food insecure children and families in Epworth, Zimbabwe are provided with essential early action to mitigate anticipated food crisis** |
| **Objective 1:** 410 vulnerable households in Epworth, Zimbabwe become food secure through growing fast-maturing nutritious seeds and keeping poultry/ruminants |
| **Outputs (Key indicators incorporated)** |
| **Output 1.1**. 410 households identified and oriented on early response intervention. |
| **Output 1.2.** 410 households trained on relevant livelihoods project (vegetable gardens or poultry/ruminant) |
| **Output 1.3.** 3 irrigation systems installed in 3 community gardens |
| **Output 1.4.** 410 households have received cash transfers for the initiation of nutrition gardens or keeping poultry/ruminants |

A detailed logical framework is attached in Annex A

* **How is the context of your selected response, considering the recommended Early Actions in the FAO report. Is the intervention appropriate and relevant (CHS 1), effective and timely (CHS 2) and are the resources managed and used in an effective, efficient and ethical manner (CHS 9)?**

The intervention is implemented in Epworth, an urban settlement located 25 kilometres east of Harare City, home to approximately 167.462 people.[[1]](#footnote-2) Epworth is located at the border between the provinces of Harare and Mashonaland East (a part of Epworth is located inside Mashonaland East). Epworth has traditionally been populated by farmers but has experienced extensive population growth and has become an overpopulated and unplanned urban settlement. Current estimates say 70% of the population are living in informal housing, leaving high rates of poverty, unemployment and crimes endemic.[[2]](#footnote-3) FAO estimates that food insecurity is likely to affect 2.2 million Zimbabweans living in urban areas.[[3]](#footnote-4) A recent study focusing on Epworth found that only 17% of households could be classiﬁed as food secure, evidently leaving Epworth as one of the most food insecure urban settlements in Zimbabwe.[[4]](#footnote-5) Household’s vulnerability to food insecurity in Epworth is propped by a range of factors, including: high levels of unemployment and poverty; high dependency ratios; hyperinflation; skyrocketing of food prices; and a general collapse of the formal food system as well as high criminality rates.

*This includes describing;*

* + *How the anticipated food insecurity is mitigated and/or how potential protection risks of particularly vulnerable people will be reduced.*

The intervention is based on the FAO recommendations to “distribute fast-maturing nutritious vegetable seeds for garden production” and to “distribute poultry and small ruminants” as well as on the local partners’ knowledge and evaluation of the context. The intervention will be implemented through cash transfer programming. 410 most vulnerable HH will receive a conditional and restricted cash grant, which must be used to initiate vegetable gardens or buy poultry/ruminant. The two livelihood-options will increase the food security of target HH substantially as they become able to produce food for domestic consumption. The cash grant enables HH to buy 5 chicks or cultivate 13-14 square meters of land including necessary items such as fertilizers, cages, feeds etc. The intervention is targeting HH with high levels of child vulnerability including child headed HH. This group is particularly vulnerable and will be protected and supported in the process by a mentoring-family. Volunteer Working-Committees (further described below) will also have a supportive role towards the child headed households.

* + *How you will ensure that the target group have access to the assistance they need when they need it.*

At early stage target HH are invited to an orientation session (output 1.1) to ensure high level of involvement and inclusion. This stimulates active participation and makes beneficiaries able to inform the intervention in a way that ensures they have access to the assistance they need when they need it. The high level of involvement is further stimulated by the organizing of target HH into 10 groups of 41 HH. Each group will appoint a volunteer representative for the Volunteer Working-Committee who will participate in coordination meetings and be included in the monitoring-mechanism thereby ensuring a participatory-monitoring approach, which further ensures that the target group has access to assistance when needed.

* + *How you will ensure that resources are managed and used responsibly for their intended purpose.*

The conditional cash grants are transferred in two disbursements to ensure that grants are used as intended. Beneficiaries will attend a livelihood-training before receiving the first disbursement. This is to prepare them for their chosen livelihood-activity (vegetable garden or poultry/ruminant) and to motivate them by demonstrating how the cash grant, if used as intended, will have a strong impact on their food security. After attending the first training, HH will receive a small cash grant (first disbursement) to prepare the vegetable gardens or cages for poultry/ruminants. When preparational activities are documented, HH will receive the second disbursement which enables them to buy seeds and fertilizers or poultry/ruminants and feeds. HH choosing vegetable gardens will be involved in a Community Garden Setup, which further stimulates that grants are used as intended (the community setup is described in greater detail below). Volunteer Working-Committees will be involved in ongoing monitoring, which also serves as a mechanism to ensure that cash grants are used as intended. Companies supplying the beneficiaries with agriculture inputs like Farm and City, Zimbabwe Fertilizer Company (ZFC) and Afrodrip will be engaged in training the beneficiaries on how to grow their varieties of crops. The same companies will also offer agricultural extension services like responding to disease outbreaks amongst crops and poultry.

* **How you will start your activities within 7 days of the Danish CSO receiving the first transfer?**

The first three days of the project will focus on community entry and program setup. The involved stakeholders will be engaged via a stakeholder sensitization meeting to earn their total support and to secure land for community gardens (day 1-2). The beneficiary’s selection process will be initiated in cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare (day 3-6). During the same period, identification of optimal locations for community gardens will be done and surveys for water supply system installation will be done concurrently. Installation of irrigation systems will commence as soon as three community gardens are identified (day 3-6). When target households have been selected, they will be engaged and oriented on the project and organized in groups of 41 (day 7 onwards).

*Please fill in the table below and note that total and total adjusted for double counting must be filled in for all ages of both female and male.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Planned target population** (direct target group only) | | | | | | | |
| Type of Activity | **Female** (by age) | | | **Male** (by age) | | | Total |
| <18 | 18-50 | >50 | <18 | 18-50 | >50 |  |
| 410 HH receiving cash grant (5 persons per HH) | 762 | 266 | 111 | 591 | 225 | 95 | 2.050 |
| Total: | **762** | **266** | **111** | **591** | **225** | **95** | **2.000** |
| Total adjusted for double counting\*: | 762 | 266 | 111 | 591 | 225 | 95 | 2.050 |
| Total vulnerable persons of the above | 762 | 266 | 111 | 591 | 225 | 95 | 2.050 |

\*correct the number if the same persons are listed in more then one activity. Each person can only be counted once.

* **How do you calculate the number of people who shall be assisted through the various activities?** *For example, if you target households, how many family members (male/female / below 18) do you count per household?*

On average a household is calculated as 5 family members of which 66% are children and 33% are adults. This is because the intervention is prioritising child-headed and single-headed households. Population data shows a higher distribution of women and girls in Epworth, as men are more likely to migrate for work. The share of target girls/women are therefore approximately 60%.

* **Which particularly vulnerable groups are you specifically targeting amongst the crisis affected population?** (*Note that you can include budget for additional vulnerability assessments as relevant in the application to DERF)? Please explain*

The project prioritises child-headed and single-headed households as well as other vulnerable families with high numbers of orphans and vulnerable children, for example, a grandmother living with three double orphans (lost both parents). Particularly vulnerable groups will be identified from the existing database of OVC (Orphans and Vulnerable Children) in cooperation with the Department of Social Welfare. The selection process will build on the fundamental humanitarian principles and core humanitarian standards to ensure that beneficiaries are chosen based on needs alone regardless of political, ethnic, religious, racial or sexual background. Child-headed families and families with high numbers of Orphans and Vulnerable Children are most affected as food insecurity is worsened by low- or no-income opportunities. This has led to a dramatic increase in child-prostitution and cases of 13-15 years old girls dropping out of school to engage in prostitution are prevalent. One study suggests that the ratio of young girls engaging in prostitution has increased by 150% in the second half of 2019 and that children are trading sex for amounts equivalent to food portions.[[5]](#footnote-6) In December 2019 the National AIDS Council reported that 70% of prostitution in Zimbabwe is now young girls due to the current food shortage.[[6]](#footnote-7)

* **Source of goods: Briefly explain how you plan to source your goods and tick the boxes that apply.**
* **Internationally**
* **Regionally / neighbouring country**

**X In country / locally**

VNZ will source the garden seeds, pesticides, poultry feeds and chicks locally. The network will engage local producers and suppliers for a cordial relationship that will make it easy for beneficiaries to secure good prices on feeds and seeds. This will cut costs and guarantee accessibility by all beneficiaries of the project.

* **Does the intervention include cash-based programming?**

**X Yes**

* + **No**

*If yes, please describe which type of cash-based programming*

The intervention will include cash transfers for beneficiaries to buy their own seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, poultry and feeds. VNZ will establish systems that reduces chances of misuse of funds as described above. Only beneficiaries with clear signs of commitment and available evidence of preparation and readiness will be supplied with cash. For beneficiaries running poultry projects, cash will cover purchase of chicks, feeds and pesticides while for nutrition gardens, the cash will cover seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. Cash transfers will be done through cash-in-hand (if available) or mobile-cash-transfer mechanism, which is preferred by beneficiaries as well as VNZ in cases where cash is not available. Mobile transfers are widely used all over Zimbabwe and is a preferred payment method because of the national liquidity crisis.

* **Financial localization of the intervention** *Take the following two figures from your budget format:*

**% of DERF intervention funding, which is spent by local or national partner CSOs, from the intervention budget: 87 %**

**% Funding spent on activities & goods for crisis affected persons, from the intervention budget: 65 %**

## The implementing organization

* **What is the capacity, experience and expertise of the proposed partner organisation(s) (CHS 8) undertaking the proposed intervention substantiating whether the Early Action can be delivered up to standard and to the needs of particularly vulnerable** **persons?**

*This includes describing:*

* *The partner organization(s) experience and expertise within the work-areas of the proposed intervention and their organisational and financial capacities*

VNZ is the Zimbabwean branch of the international Viva network. VNZ was founded in 1999 as a network of organizations and churches seeking effective collaborative responses to improve the situation for children at risk in the country. The vision of VNZ is “*to see all the children at risk living in safe, loving homes and communities”*. The key focus areas of the network are child protection, family strengthening and access to basic needs as outlined in the 5-year organizational strategy (2019-2023). Today the members of VNZ includes 54 organizations, 156 churches and 15 associated partners, which collectively ensures a strong capacity, expertise and legitimacy within the area of child protection. VNZ has an estimated direct reach of 35.000 children in Zimbabwe, many of these are situated in Epworth where this intervention will be implemented. The Director of VNZ has 6 years’ experience as the Humanitarian Relief and Development Manager of the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe thus ensuring a strong capacity and experience with emergency interventions including cash transfer programming and food security programming. VNZ also has substantial agricultural experience as they have been running ‘green houses’ (vegetable gardens) for years to generate income for their child protection work. VNZ has a sound updated finance policy as well as a code of conduct which ensures effective internal control systems. The VNZ board has a trained Treasurer who works hand in hand with the finance officer. In 2018, VNZ received training on finance management from Viva Denmark which has strengthened the way the network works in partnership with Viva Denmark.

VNZ’s track record in the past 5 years:

* Provided catch-up learning to more than 1.600 children in its eight (8) Learning Support Centers in four (4) high-density areas of Harare (including Mbare and Epworth).
* Assisted parents for children in learning centers to do income generating activities to make them able to meet the needs of their children
* Supported the birth registration of more than 400 children, 103 of them as an indirect support through the Learning Support Centers.
* Established comprehensive child safeguarding systems in 20 member organizations and 60 churches and trained 33 organizations on Quality Improvement Systems (QIS).
* Provided more than 2000 children in high-density suburbs of Harare with psychosocial support, including Epworth and Mbare.
* “Let’s Unite” partnership and capacity building project funded by CISU (400.000 DKK)
* Currently implementing the CISU funded project Access to Justice for Children (budget 1.5 Mio. DKK). The project aims to reduce barriers to justice for 15.000 children, provide specialized litigation services to 100 children and birth registration to 1500 children in Epworth and Mbare.

Qualifications of relevant staff and board members:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Position | Qualifications | Experience |
| Jonathan I. Chikumbu | Coordinator | * Bachelor of Honours Degree in Social Work * Master’s Degree in Population Studies | Has worked with Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe as the Humanitarian Relief and Development Manager for 6 years before joining VNZ as Coordinator in 2013. |
| Oscar Bobo | Finance Officer | * Diploma in Accounting * Certificate in Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation | Has been working with VNZ as Finance and Administration Officer since 2013. |
| Widdlack Nyahwedegwe | Programs Officer | * BSC Hons in Psychology * Diploma in Information Technology * Certificate in Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation | Has worked with Total Blessings Trust, a child welfare organization before joining VNZ as a Programs Officer. |
| Mr. Simbarashe Takawira | Board Member | * Bachelor of Honours Degree in Development Studies * Intermediate Diploma in Business studies | He was the finance officer for Scripture Union Zimbabwe for 16 years apart from working for various government ministries and banks. |

* *The partner organization(s) access to the people at risk, including experiences with meeting the needs of particular vulnerable people*

VNZ already has a strong presence in the implementation area thereby securing access to the people at risk. Through its strong presence VNZ enjoys legitimacy towards the target population as they are known for their child protection work. This is partly due to the current CISU funded project “Access to Justice” and partly due to its long-term presence in the area through its network members counting local organisations and churches. VNZ has great experience in meeting the needs of most vulnerable families and children as this has been a key focus since its foundation in 1999.

* **Is the Danish CSO proposing to self-implement?** 
  + **Yes**

**X No**

* **Partnership:** 
  + *Kindly explain whether you have entered into a partnership agreement, the main features of this agreement(s) and whether this agreement(s) was developed with the local partner.*

A partnership agreement will be signed between Viva Denmark (VD) and Viva Network Zimbabwe (VNZ) as soon as the application has been approved. The agreement has been developed and adjusted over time with input from VNZ and has been used for previous interventions financed by the Civil Society Fund. The agreement holds the terms and expectations between VD and VNZ and regards obligations and responsibilities of the partners, management of the project budget and payments, reporting and deadlines, accounting and audit, corruption and PSEAH clause etc.

* + *Describe the contributions, roles and areas of responsibilities of all partners (including the Danish CSO) within this intervention*

In this partnership, VD will be responsible for the overall administration of the intervention, provide technical assistance and ensure compliance with requirements and guidelines. VNZ is responsible for local coordination and implementation, including contracting of staff, coordination with local partners and reporting to VD on a continuous basis. VNZ is in general responsible for ensuring sufficient professional and administrative capacity to manage the project. The VD Program Manager will provide technical assistance on cash-transfer programming, as he has technical experience and training qua his membership of the Danish Red Cross Relief-Cash Emergency Standby-Unit.

## Local strengthening

* **How does the intervention strengthen local capacities and avoid negative effects (CHS 3)?**

The intervention involves local authorities in the coordination and implementation of the response to ensure that the intervention builds on and strengthens local structures. Individual vegetable gardens are established in Community Garden Setups as vulnerable urban households don’t have access to their own land. Community Gardens are established in partnership with local stakeholders who enjoys legitimacy amongst the target population including schools and churches thus building on existing structures. This is favorable for; ease of monitoring; increasing chances of cash being used for the gardens; ease access to water supply; ease of pest control and support services. Community Gardens also serve as a protection/support mechanism for child-headed households who will be connected to a mentoring-family from the same Community Garden. The poultry HH will run the projects at their residential places. This is decided due to the following factors: poultry feeds only require a movable cage, which is relatively small and mobile; having poultry projects in one place may require a setup of infrastructure. Negative effects are avoided by ensuring strong coordination and cooperation with local authorities and by high levels of involvement and inclusion of beneficiaries. Beneficiary participation is further strengthened by the participatory-monitoring approach, and by establishment of Volunteer Working-Committees consisting of volunteer representatives from each group of target households. Negative effects are also prevented as VNZ has a child protection policy, code of conduct, communication policy, financial policy and other policies which ensure that staff adheres to key protection and safeguarding principles thus ensuring the safety and neutral, impartial and decent treatment of beneficiaries. Police clearance of VNZ staff are obligatory before working with children.

* **How are the local actors including the target group informed and involved (CHS 4)?**

The intervention is coordinated in close cooperation with local authorities including the Department of Social Welfare who will be involved in the household targeting process. Local churches and schools are involved in the establishment of Community Gardens as they will provide land for the vegetable projects.

VNZ will facilitate area coordination meetings (all stakeholders meetings) and share information on the project and get contributions as well as recommendation from stakeholders and beneficiary representatives. Review meetings will be done in order to collect information as well as give feedback to the beneficiaries and stakeholders. A Stakeholder Sensitization Meeting will be facilitated during the initiation of the project to inform and involve all stakeholders and partners. Once target households have been selected, households will be organized in 10 groups of 41 and invited for orientation meetings. Each group will have a volunteer working-committee of 3 members. These volunteer working-committees will meet at least once a month and share coordination, information and experiences. Furthermore, WhatsApp groups will be formed for the 10 household groups and text messages will be used to pass information on progress reports or invitations to meetings.

* **Is a no regret approach applied to ensure that the intervention will be beneficial for the target group in the unexpected event that the anticipated crisis does not arise?**

A no regret approach has been applied by targeting most vulnerable and poor household who will benefit from the intervention under all circumstances. The food insecurity level of target households is at a level where the intervention will have a substantial effect regardless of how the situation evolves. This have already been documented by the increase of child prostitution in Epworth. The economy of the local community will benefit as well from purchases of local vegetable seeds, poultry and/or small ruminants.

## M&E, LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

* **How are risk management systems applied in the appropriate context?**

VNZ will ensure land is selected from secure places in order to avoid losses due to theft. The gardens will therefore be placed at schools and churches which are secure. Contracts with land providers will be signed in order to ensure security of tenure for the beneficiaries using the gardens. Extension services will be chosen from the seed and poultry suppliers in order to ensure that cultivation will be done in recommended places and in a recommended manner. This will also ensure environmental protection. Due to the economic situation of the country with hyperinflation and shortages cash, if cash is not available, a mobile-transfer mechanism will be used for cash transfers. Mobile transfers also increase security. The security situation in Epworth doesn’t demand a security management system for VNZ staff operating in the area.

* **How do the implementing partners apply monitoring, feedback and accountability systems (CHS 5), including a complaint mechanism that works in the specific** **context?** *Include here a description of how you monitor results (e.g. by formulating indicators), how you report back to the target population (feedback) and describe how you will receive, handle, and address complaints.*

VNZ applies a participatory-monitoring approach where volunteers organized in working-committees are collecting data and participating in monthly monitoring and coordination meetings. This will ensure a high level of accountability and feedback for beneficiaries. The Volunteer Working-Committees will also function as complaint-mechanisms and forward complaints to the project officer. A reporting system will be established to make sure all beneficiaries are able to file complaints. The system will ensure that complaints are received and responded to in a timely and expected manner. Complaints are received and registered by the project officer. The project officer will be overall responsible for ongoing monitoring and data collection. To supplement monitoring data from the Working-Committees the project officer will make regular monitoring visits to implementation area. A least one community garden as well as 10% of households doing poultry/ruminants will be closely followed as a sample for monitoring and feedback. Monthly monitoring reports will be shared with local authorities at regular coordination meetings. Bimonthly financial and narrative monitoring reports will be shared with VD and followed up with skype-meetings. A monitoring/evaluation visit will be done by a VD staff. VD staff will participate to reflect on results, contextual changes and lessons learnt.

* **How will learning and reflection be applied in terms of improving humanitarian action (CHS 7)?**

Together with the beneficiary representatives as well as other stakeholders in the community, VNZ will present an end of project report to the Emergency Response Cluster, Area Coordination Committee and relevant authorities to share key learnings and recommendations. Learnings from monitoring meetings and midterm review will be incorporated in the response on an ongoing basis and guide future responses. VD will participate in DERF peer review and experience-sharing mechanisms in Denmark to share key learnings.

## Coordination

* **Is the implementing organisation(s) involved in a coordination mechanism?**

**X Yes**

* + **No**

*If yes, please describe which clusters and on which level*

The project will be implemented in partnership and coordination with the Department of Social Services (DSS), Ministry of Local Governance, Ministry of Education, local churches and schools, as well as other local stakeholders. The Ministry of Local Governance will assist with the coordination of stakeholders, the DSS in beneficiary selection in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Stakeholders including schools and churches will open their premises for vegetable gardens. The response will also be coordinated with the Emergency Response Cluster.

* **How does the intervention contribute towards coordination and complementarity of humanitarian assistance (CHS 6)?**

*This includes cooperation and coordination with relevant stakeholders and coordination mechanisms to ensure that particularly vulnerable people at-risk of being affected by the anticipated food security crisis do not experience avoidable gaps and overlaps in the humanitarian assistance.*

The intervention contributes towards coordination and complementarity through close coordination and collaboration with above mentioned authorities and emergency response coordination mechanisms. Reports will be shared with the District Administrator and other relevant stakeholders. VNZ is also invited to the provincial platform for emergency coordination and will share learnings and progress in this forum as well. The Project Officer will be responsible for planning, reporting and strategizing, representation of the network at area coordination meetings, provincial meetings as well as the Emergencies and Disaster Response Cluster. All networking with government departments and other stakeholders will contribute to coordination and complementarity of humanitarian assistance.

1. ZIMSTATS2012 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. ZIMSTATS2019 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. FAO, *Early Warning Early Action Report on Food Security and Agriculture* (2020) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Tawodzera and Chigumira, *Food Security in Epworth, Zimbabwe* (2018) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Study by Spring of Life, Zimbabwe [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)