



Office of the  
United Nations Resident/Humanitarian Co-ordinator  
Zimbabwe

25 February 2008

Dear Mr. Holmes,

Reference is made to your letter of 18 January 2008 requesting an update on the implementation of the cluster approach in Zimbabwe.

Discussions on humanitarian reform in Zimbabwe started in January 2007, with a workshop facilitated by the Humanitarian Reform Support Unit (HRSU) from OCHA Geneva. Following consultations in the humanitarian community, as well as with the Government, there is now agreement that implementing the cluster approach in Zimbabwe will support the humanitarian operations through optimising collective efforts in support of the government and strengthening coordination among partners.

In Zimbabwe we have had a functioning IASC Country Team since 2005 with participation from the UN, NGOs, IOM and the IFRC. On behalf of this team, I am therefore pleased to inform you of the coordination arrangements currently in place:

Cluster	Cluster lead(s)
Nutrition	UNICEF and Helen Keller International
WASH	UNICEF and Oxfam GB
Emergency telecommunications	WFP and UNICEF
Health	WHO
Agriculture	FAO

In addition, the Early Recovery Network led by UNDP will be formalized shortly. In the case of Protection, the Zimbabwe IASC Country Team does not recommend the establishment of a formal cluster at this stage, but a sectoral working group with a rotating Chair will continue to meet on a monthly basis to ensure the necessary coordination. In the case of Food Aid, WFP does not believe that the establishment of a cluster is needed.

As the humanitarian situation changes, the IASC Country Team will review the coordination arrangements and consider whether additional clusters should be established.

I would be grateful if, in accordance with agreed procedures you could consult the IASC Principals to ensure that there are no objections from any agencies to these arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Agostinho Zacarias**  
Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator  
United Nations Zimbabwe

Mr John Holmes  
Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs & Emergency Relief Coordinator  
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