

## **Emergencies and Disaster Risk Reduction**

Natural disasters such as floods periodically displace people in rural areas of Zimbabwe, leaving them homeless and without food. Government generally does not have adequate resources to meet the immediate demands of displaced populations. The frequency and intensity of floods appears to be worsened by climate change, the utilisation of wetlands for development (that used to serve as a sponge), poor land husbandry including wildfires, and siltation of water bodies. The construction of houses in low lying areas tends to expose some populations to floods. The most affected communities reside in low lying areas such as Muzarabani, Gokwe, Mberengwa and Masvingo which are prone to flooding causing property destruction, displacement, mental and emotional disturbance and loss of lives. These developments create situations that call for humanitarian assistance that Christian Care is mandated and experienced in providing. In this regard, Christian Care plans to take proactive and reactive measures to assist communities that it works with.

The assumptions that are associated with Emergencies and Disaster Risk Reduction outputs are that: funding partners would be willing and able to provide funds for possible natural disaster emergencies, especially before they arise, as well as to provide additional funds where necessary depending on the scale. The outputs also assume that potential beneficiaries are interested in preparing for natural disasters, especially floods and willing to share traditional coping mechanisms; and that stakeholders such as the Meteorological Department and the Civil Protection Unit and local leaders are willing to cooperate on preparing communities for potential disasters. The intermediate outcomes are dependent on funds availability, community and stakeholder cooperation. The long term goal is likely to be achieved when disaster response structures, systems and practices are widely developed and available in the country.