

**Newsletter**  
**February 26, 2017**

**Harry and Greta Harsevoort**  
**International Relief Managers**  
**On assignment in Zambia**

## ***Water, water everywhere!***

February CFGB food distributions have been very challenging because of all the rains. While it's always our goal to get as close to the communities as possible, sometimes it is just can't be done.

We have had to relocate 8 of our 10 distribution centres to areas further away from the communities because they have become inaccessible by transport truck.

A few days before a distribution, project officers, sometimes accompanied by a transport driver, go out in one of the WR 4x4 vehicles to check road conditions.

If the loaded trucks cannot get through, an alternative site needs to be selected.

In remote areas, where there is no cell phone coverage, the only way to discuss alternative plans with the community is to drive out there.

*Most people travel with carts pulled by oxen or donkeys, but others walk, some 10 hours or more each way.*



*Last November, these lowlands were dry and trucks were able to pass through to deliver food to remote communities. Now, people are catching small fish in these flooded areas!*



This week, things did not go according to plan.

From Monday thru Thursday we experienced 2 stuck transport trucks, 1 load shifted from stuck truck to empty truck, 1 truck breakdown, several delayed distributions, 2 roadside distributions, but thankfully had to cancel only one distribution, postponed to next week.

We are finding that road conditions through the bush are becoming increasingly poor and are sometimes barely passable.



*This truck got stuck, so volunteers came to shift the load to another truck and then hitched a ride back to the distribution centre.*

When a transport truck could go no further, people from Lusinina were willing to travel an additional 2 ½ hours to this emergency roadside distribution, rather than have the distribution postponed and relocated to another site next week.



We were prepared when the distribution was interrupted by heavy rain. We covered the remaining piles with large sheets of plastic, which we later cut up and distributed to beneficiaries so that they could protect their food on the way home.

## **Our greatest Concern and Challenge:**

This newsletter has been primarily about the affects the heavy rains have had on our distributions. However, our greatest concern is much more serious.

During our distributions this past week, we constantly heard reports from our beneficiaries about the conditions of their fields and crops and expected harvests. Those who planted early in the higher grounds are expecting a good harvest. Those who planted later are complaining that their maize is not growing ears because the heavy rains are washing away the pollen; others are saying that their millet is fermenting on the stalk. Farmers in the low lands tell us that many of their fields have been flooded over 2 months and they are now expecting 100% crop failure.

This CFGB food program ends after next month's round of food distributions. How will those people survive after they receive their final ration?

**March 5 is CFGB Sunday. Please give generously at church or online. It's a matter of life or death for thousands of people! <http://worldrenew.net/cfgb>**

*Harry and Greta*