

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

2. Mugabe agrees to the visit of UNHCR's Special Envoy to assess the Operation. [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED]

DETAIL

4. [REDACTED]

5. The campaign is continuing and spreading throughout the country, in both urban and rural areas. Over the last few days members of the Embassy have witnessed bulldozing continuing in high density (ie low income) areas around Harare. IOM estimate that approximately 66,000 households, accounting for around 330,000 individuals, have been directly affected. Others, eg the opposition MDC, are quoting numbers of over a million people affected, but the IOM figures are probably more accurate, based on assessments in over 45 areas throughout the country.

6. The media have been reporting that the next stage of the campaign will target unlicensed businesses in the better-off suburbs (many small companies operate from middle-class homes). If so, it will for the first time directly affect white and richer black Zimbabweans.

7. Many of those affected so far are women and children, some of them chronically ill. There have been reports of women giving birth in the street. The risk of the spread of disease in the worst affected areas and the makeshift camps for those displaced will grow the longer they are without adequate shelter and sanitation. IOM have expanded their assistance programme (using USD 400,000 of DFID money to date, with a further contribution imminent). So far they have reached 9,000 affected households with food, blankets and other essential items. DFID are in close contact with the UN and other donors about further response to the developing needs.

8. [REDACTED] Mugabe has agreed to a visit by Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, as his Special Envoy to report on the Operation. This was the lead story in the state-run "Herald" of 21 June, indicating a certain GoZ confidence that the report will vindicate the Operation. We understand she is expected to arrive today (22 June). Civil society groups are planning to organise protests to coincide with the visit, although on past form GoZ will do its best to stifle these.

9. [REDACTED]