

# ZAMBIA

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 3.5M**

Appeal number **MAAZM002**

## In support of the Zambia Red Cross Society



**58**

National Society branches



**66**

National Society staff



**7,857**

National Society volunteers

## People to be reached



**297,000**

Climate and environment



**297,000**

Disasters and crises



**200,000**

Health and wellbeing



**30,000**

Migration and displacement



**60,000**

Values, power and inclusion

## IFRC network multiyear focus

### Longer term needs

- Epidemics and pandemic preparedness and response
- Disaster risk reduction and response
  - Anticipatory action
  - Food insecurity

### Capacity development

- Public advocacy
- Digital transformation
- Quality control and quality assurance

## Key country data

**Population** **18.9M**

**INFORM Severity rating** **medium**

**Long-term Climate Risk Index** **123**

**Human Development Index rank** **154**

**Population below poverty level** **54.4%**

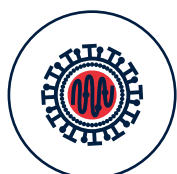
## Hazards



Floods



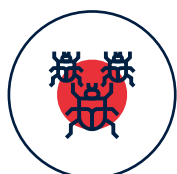
Drought



Epidemics



Cyclones



Insect infestation

## Funding requirements

**Total 3.5M** CHF

Through the IFRC

**1.2M** CHF

Through Participating National Societies

**755,000** CHF

Host National Society

**1.5M** CHF

### IFRC Breakdown

#### Longer term needs

**65,000** CHF  
Climate and environment

**268,000** CHF  
Disasters and crises

**501,000** CHF  
Health and wellbeing

**45,000** CHF  
Migration and displacement

**55,000** CHF  
Values, power and inclusion

**295,000** CHF  
Enabling local actors

## Participating National Societies

British Red Cross\*

The Netherlands Red Cross



# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

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**The Zambia Red Cross Society** is a humanitarian and developmental aid organization. It has been present in Zambia since the country's pre-independence days. Following independence in 1964, it was established as an independent voluntary aid organization and an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. The National Society was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1967. It has 58 branches and approximately 7,000 active volunteers, whose role is recognized by the local population, authorities and other stakeholders.

The Zambia Red Cross 2021–2025 Strategic Plan covers how the National Society can become stronger, enabling volunteers and staff to consistently deliver services to vulnerable people around the country for as long as needed.

The Zambia Red Cross has prioritized the following goals:

- That people can anticipate, respond to and quickly recover from crisis
- That people can lead safe, healthy and dignified lives with opportunities to thrive
- That people mobilize for inclusive and peaceful communities

The Zambia Red Cross has more than 50 trained national disaster response teams spread across the country. These teams have vast experience in emergency response operations. In the past four years, they have responded to cholera outbreaks, population movement, floods, food insecurity and COVID-19, and in 2022 alone, the National Society has responded to flash floods and a cholera outbreak. It has been part of an IFRC cholera preparedness project since October 2020, with the aim of strengthening communities' capacity and awareness in the cholera-prone areas of Mpulungu and Nsumbu in the north of the country. This has been key to helping the Zambia Red Cross generate awareness about cholera and safe hygiene practices, and in supporting communities within cholera hotspots to protect themselves in the event of an outbreak.

The Zambia Red Cross has been supporting the Ministry of Health to improve COVID-19 case management at health facilities and in homes through better access to health care. National Society volunteers also supported COVID-19 testing and vaccination in anti-stigma and discrimination campaigns and advocacy sessions, through door-to-door activities and by using megaphones in eight districts.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

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### Joint situational analysis

Zambia is a large, landlocked, resource-rich country in the centre of Southern Africa. It shares a border with Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. These eight countries serve as an expanded market for Zambia's goods.

Zambia's land is sparsely populated and much of its population is urban. The population is growing rapidly at 2.9 per cent every year. This makes it likely that the total population will nearly double in size every 25 years and means Zambia is one of the world's youngest countries by median age. This trend is expected to continue as the proportionally large young generation enters reproductive age, putting even more pressure on the demand for jobs, health care and other social services.

Zambia gained independence in 1964. It then became a multi-party state in 1991, following many years as a one-party state. Zambia is considered a stable country and holds elections every five years.

Having contracted by 2.8 per cent during 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Zambian economy rebounded in 2021, with GDP growing at 4.6 per cent. This recovery was driven by high copper prices, post-election market confidence and continued agricultural recovery. Economic activity has remained positive in the first half of 2022.

Despite economic recovery, social indicators in Zambia continue to decline. It remains one of the least developed countries in Africa, with 54 per cent of the

population living on less than US\$1.90 a day and an average life expectancy of 64 years. Zambia ranked 154 out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index, with an estimated almost half of the population unable to meet their minimum calorie requirements and more than one-third of children under five stunted. According to the United Nations Children's Fund, gender inequality remains very high, deepening poverty for women and girls throughout the country.

The burden of infectious disease is high in Zambia. Epidemics (especially measles, cholera, malaria and other communicable diseases) are frequent and have an extended geographical scope. Many outbreaks call for urgent support from emergency, humanitarian and

specialist actors to support the national authorities to contain and respond to the disease. A large number of people live with HIV/AIDS, and this is a particularly vulnerable group.

The impacts of recurrent crises, including climate change, exacerbate Zambia's vulnerability, reducing its capacity for anticipatory action, preparedness, response and resilience. This makes effective humanitarian assistance even more important. Institutional preparedness systems, including government systems, do not have the capacity to respond to these increasing needs. They need to be strengthened at every level, from national and provincial to district and community.

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## Strategic priorities

### Climate and environment

Zambia is experiencing more frequent and intense droughts, dry spells, floods, flash floods, storms and heat waves due to climate change and climate variation. The impacts of this are exacerbated by anthropogenic activities such as deforestation. According to Global Forest Watch, Zambia lost 201kha of tree cover in 2021, equating to 78.3Mt of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. From 2001 to 2021, it lost 2.07Mha of tree cover, equivalent to an 8.6 per cent decrease since 2000 and to 772Mt of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In 2010, Zambia had 22.4Mha of tree cover, extending over 30 per cent of its land area.

Combined with poor agricultural methods, high levels of poverty, population growth and poor enforcement of environmental laws, this results in negative impacts on livestock, wild animals, livelihoods and communities.

Zambia's Western and Southern Provinces experience frequent prolonged dry spells. Luapula, Northern, Eastern, and North-Western Provinces are also prone to flooding, which increases the risks, exposure and vulnerabilities of people who rely on farming, livestock, fishing and forestry products. Flooding also increases the risk of wildfires.

The Zambian Government has established a Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, which promotes climate change and disaster risk reduction activities in coordination with key stakeholders, including United Nations agencies. The Zambia Red Cross is working closely with the Water Resources Management Authority and Zambia Meteorological Department to forecast

hydrometeorological-related hazards, aiming to reduce its impacts. This coordination is helping the National Society and other key stakeholders to strengthen the country's preparedness and early action systems.

Zambia has already started several tree planting and preservation projects across the country. In line with its commitments to international treaties such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Government plans to create a tree-based economy and to mitigate climate change. The Plant A Million initiative is one example that aims to significantly contribute to reducing deforestation.

### Main actions and areas of support

The Zambia Red Cross is part of the [IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

In 2023, the Zambia Red Cross will work on the priorities which were identified in a recent assessment conducted as part of the IFRC Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process. It will:

- Focus on strengthening community preparedness and response capacities through [community-based early warning systems](#)
- Encourage and help communities to use natural resources sustainably and to restore the environment, working together with the Government
- Systematically integrate and anticipate short- and longer-term impacts of climate and environmental crises in their programmes and operations, helping communities to absorb, adapt and transform to climate change
- Increase community awareness, uptake of climate change adaptation and adoption of climate-smart livelihood practices that will reduce climate and environmental vulnerabilities
- Identify, avoid, reduce and mitigate adverse environmental impacts that result from humanitarian response and long-term programmes, mainstreaming [green response](#) into all systems and practices
- Strengthen its volunteers' knowledge and skills to train communities in resilient techniques and anticipatory approaches, such as Building Back Safer and the [Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness](#), allowing them to reduce the risks of climate and environmental crises

As part of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) with the IFRC, the Netherlands Red Cross will support the Zambia Red Cross to develop and test a community-based early warning system.

The IFRC will coordinate and help the Zambia Red Cross to engage and foster strategic partnerships in sustainable environmental action. It will also guide the National Society to develop programmes that contribute to the IFRC Pan-African Tree Planting and Care initiative.

## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page [Zambia](#)

Zambia is highly vulnerable to a range of hazards, from floods, cyclones and droughts to epidemics (cholera, measles, COVID-19) and crop pests (African migratory

locust, fall armyworm infestations). These result in the loss of lives and destruction to livelihood assets, leading to population displacement and thousands of people needing humanitarian assistance. Extreme weather events such as torrential rainfall, strong winds and storms are frequent and increasing in intensity, exacerbated by climate change. These further increase peoples' vulnerability, while reducing their capacity to cope.

Large parts of Zambia saw their lowest seasonal rainfall in 40 years in 2020–2021. The country also faces challenges from poor agricultural techniques, depleted soil fertility, crop pests, land access disputes, lack of access to food and volatile food prices. All these factors combine to make the overall food security situation more severe, resulting in 1.7 million people being food insecure.

Drought also increases these populations' vulnerabilities and heightens their risk of adopting negative coping strategies. More children drop out of school and enter into early child marriages, there is an increase in human and child trafficking and forced labour situations, and in transactional sex for survival. Resource tensions also arise as communities move in search of water.

There is limited community and stakeholder preparedness to deal with the population displacements from flooding and drought, posing a risk to those affected. The risk of outbreaks of cholera and other water-borne diseases is particularly significant.

In January 2022, most parts of Zambia started experiencing heavy rain. From 16 January, the Kalomo, Namwala and Choma districts of the Southern Province saw flash floods, and the region continued to receive high rainfall three months later from Tropical Storms Ana and Batsirai. A needs assessment by the Government's Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) on 17 January 2022, along with an assessment by the Zambia Red Cross, indicates that the Namwala district recorded the highest number of households affected (3,000), equating to 19,000 people. These reports also reported that 8,000 hectares of field crops were submerged, along with houses and sanitation facilities. Livestock, including chickens and goats, had been swept away. Five hundred households were initially displaced, increasing to 600 households in the Namwala district following Tropical Storm Ana. These displaced households were accommodated in four camps set up by the DMMU. The floods also resulted in crop failure, further exacerbating food insecurity as people did not have crops to feed themselves or to sell for income.

The [Zambia National Disaster Risk Management Framework \(2017–2030\)](#) seeks to operationalize and build on the Sendai Framework (and other frameworks) to facilitate the identification of priority areas to be included in national development planning processes. This will require concerted efforts by all stakeholders, led by the Government. It will reduce the impacts of disasters and, by investing in disaster risk reduction, it will free up resources for other sustainable development initiatives.

### **Main actions and areas of support:**

Through its auxiliary role, the Zambia Red Cross is a key responder to disasters and crises in the country, including the 2022 floods through an IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [operation](#). The National Society seeks to continuously improve its capacity to respond efficiently and effectively, while contributing to disaster risk reduction and community resilience.

The Government has adopted [anticipatory action](#) and forecast-based financing as innovative mechanisms to predict and mitigate the impacts of disasters. The Zambia Red Cross has worked closely with them on Early Action Protocols (EAPs) for floods and drought and, with partners, has developed a dashboard for community risk and impact-based forecasting. This dashboard has been successfully handed over to the DMMU, and shows where particular types of disaster are taking place so that it can quickly identify the geographic areas and populations that are most affected. Despite this, there is still a need to strengthen the capacity of government stakeholders to manage and activate the impact-based forecasting system.

As part of its preparedness capacity, the Zambia Red Cross has developed and adopted a comprehensive needs assessment tool across all departments. It has also embraced unrestricted cash transfers as a dignified means of assisting people in need. The National Society has carried out four separate cash transfers in response to drought and to COVID-19. With support from the IFRC, its staff and volunteers have been trained in cash and voucher assistance and in the [Red Rose](#) data management tool. They have also developed a standard operating procedure for cash, set up a mechanism for receiving complaints and feedback, and signed a contract with the financial service provider MTN. To date, the National Society has provided more than 6,000 households with cash assistance.

The Zambia Red Cross will strengthen the capacities of smallholder farmers (and particularly women) to

increase their food production through community-led projects, providing and supplying seeds, tools, fertilizers and basic equipment for producing cereals, pulses and vegetables. This will encourage production technologies which are more resilient to climate change, and will encourage smallholder farmers to prioritize production of legumes, which can reduce dietary gaps in protein and niacin. The National Society intends to integrate food security and livelihoods in emergency, recovery and resilience building activities by developing integrated interventions that support basic needs, prevent asset depletion, and protect or help to recover livelihoods.

In 2023, the Zambia Red Cross will:

- Help communities to build capacity and prepare for timely and effective mitigation, adaptation, response and recovery to crises and disasters, including through early action
- Ensure communities share and receive actionable risk information and are supported to take active steps to reduce their vulnerability and exposure to hazards
- Ensure that people affected by crises and disasters receive timely and appropriate cash and voucher assistance
- Ensure that people affected by crises and disasters receive support, services and help to develop skills to address their needs

As part of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) Pilot Programmatic Partnership with the IFRC, the Netherlands Red Cross will support the Zambia Red Cross on disaster risk management.

The IFRC will provide technical support to the Zambia Red Cross and will coordinate strategic partnership engagement with other stakeholders in the IFRC Pan-Africa Zero Hunger Initiative. The IFRC will help the National Society to build its capacity for cash and voucher assistance and to develop integrated interventions that support basic needs, prevent asset depletion, and protect, strengthen or help to recover livelihoods.

### **Health and wellbeing**

More than 61 per cent of the Zambian population (nearly eight million people) live in rural areas where the provision of public services is severely limited. Access to improved sources of water in rural areas is just 53 per cent, compared with 90 per cent in urban areas. Rural

areas are also poorly served in comparison with urban areas when it comes to access to health care. There are just 70 clinical health workers per 100,000 people in rural areas, compared with 159 per 100,000 people in urban areas. A severe shortage of qualified clinical staff in more remote areas means that some clinics are run by unqualified personnel or by just one qualified practitioner.

Access to adequate water, sanitation and hygiene services is also unequal in Zambia. An estimated 4.8 million Zambians do not have regular access to clean water and 6.6 million do not have access to adequate sanitation facilities. This results in poor water, sanitation and hygiene being a major factor in the country's high rates of childhood diarrhoea, which further translates into high rates of malnutrition. Forty per cent of children are stunted and child mortality sits at seven per cent of live births. Girls and women are particularly affected by poor water, sanitation and hygiene conditions. The time they have to spend collecting water leads to loss of productivity and leisure time, and the lack of toilets negatively impacts their dignity. These challenges can be overcome through low-cost, high-impact interventions which promote hygiene and sanitation in the most vulnerable communities.

Zambia faces a double disease burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. There is high prevalence of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, diarrhoea and intestinal worms, alongside rising rates of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes mellitus, cancer and chronic respiratory disease. According to the World Bank (2016), HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are the country's biggest health development challenges. Malaria is endemic in all of Zambia's 10 provinces, both in urban and rural areas. It predominantly attacks the most vulnerable populations, accounting for 40 per cent of deaths in under-fives and an estimated 20 per cent of maternal deaths.

On 11 April 2022, a cholera outbreak was declared in Zambia. By 18 April, the outbreak had spread to densely populated areas within Lusaka which lack adequate sanitation and access to clean and safe water, posing a danger for the disease to spread further. Although this cholera outbreak occurred outside the rainy season, it had the potential to mimic the 2017–2018 outbreak. This earlier outbreak had started in one area and spread to other hotspots within Lusaka, and then eventually to other parts of the country. Although cholera is endemic in Zambia, there had not been an outbreak since 2019, owing to various cholera prevention measures implemented under the country's Multi-Sectoral National Cholera Elimination Plan.

## Main actions and areas of support

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the Zambia Red Cross works on the frontline of epidemics, including cholera and COVID-19 outbreaks, alongside the Ministry of Health. Preparedness for other current and emerging epidemics such as Ebola, typhoid, dysentery, monkey-pox, measles and polio needs to urgently be included in response plan preparedness.

The Zambia Red Cross is an active stakeholder in realizing the Government's Multi-Sectoral National Cholera Elimination Plan. Its main work has revolved around a preparedness programme that targets branches in cholera hotspots. This has involved building the capacity of branches and community volunteers to respond with:

- Community mobilization and awareness raising around hygiene promotion
- Community case management by providing oral rehydration therapies and scaling up oral rehydration point kits
- Emergency water, sanitation and hygiene interventions to break transmission at household and community levels, with prepositioned household hygiene and disinfection kits
- Support to both preventative and response-related oral cholera vaccine campaigns

The Zambia Red Cross is developing an Early Action Protocol (EAP) for cholera in coordination with the IFRC. If realized, this protocol will allow further preparedness stock to be put in place.

Zambia has also been an active member of the Global Taskforce for Cholera Control and was one of the first countries to have its National Cholera Plan ratified. The IFRC and the Zambia Red Cross host a country support platform officer who works with the Government and other stakeholders to realize the Multi-Sectoral National Cholera Elimination Plan.

Offering community-based health and first aid is an integral part of the National Society's efforts to complement the Ministry of Health's work in providing equitable access to health care services for communities in need. Since its inception in 1966, the Zambia Red Cross has been a leading provider of first aid for community health, including workplace first aid. The National Society trains more than 2,000 people in workplace first aid every year and offers community-based first aid training and care to more than 6,000 people in communities.

Over recent years, the Zambia Red Cross has implemented broader community-based health projects that focus on preventing and managing the effects of major causes of death in children under five years of age, including diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections. It has built a strong partnership with the Ministry of Health and specializes in interventions for maternal and child health, water, sanitation and hygiene, and behaviour change communication. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Zambia Red Cross worked jointly with the Ministry of Health on risk communication and community engagement, contact tracing, hygiene promotion, rehabilitation of boreholes, psychological support and strengthening the capacity of Ministry of Health and frontline workers.

In 2023, the Zambia Red Cross will focus on:

- Promoting health, disease prevention and community-based care activities, focusing on people in vulnerable circumstances
- Expanding the reach, quality and modalities of first aid activities, including training volunteers, staff and members of the public in all contexts
- Developing commercial first aid models to promote financial sustainability and accelerate the National Society's ability to sustain its services
- Meeting the mental health and psychosocial support needs of communities, volunteers and staff
- Providing contextually appropriate sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health services
- Carrying out epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response activities, including building and maintaining community-level capacity to effectively detect, prevent and respond to outbreaks of infectious disease

As part of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) Pilot Programmatic Partnership with the IFRC, the Netherlands Red Cross will support the Zambia Red Cross with epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, particularly around strengthening community-based surveillance, water, sanitation and hygiene activities.

The IFRC will continue to provide overall technical support and training to the Zambia Red Cross. It will support the National Society to network and link with other actors such as Global Health Security Agenda, the

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO) and African Union on health, nutrition, immunization and public health. It will also support and link the National Society with other platforms for sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health.

## Migration and displacement

Zambia currently hosts 101,000 'people of concern', as defined by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Of these, 72,000 are refugees, 5,000 are asylum seekers and 25,000 are former refugees. Migration dynamics in Zambia are complex. It is a country of origin, transit and destination for men, women and children. These include labour migrants, asylum seekers, irregular migrants and victims of human trafficking within the Southern Africa region and beyond.

Migration data and analysis in Zambia is fragmented, and administrative records are not collected for the purposes of measuring migration in its entirety. Migration has an impact on national population change, the environment and trends in urbanization.

Zambia's geographic proximity to the DRC means it experiences periodic flows of asylum seekers into the country. These asylum seekers need comprehensive protection assistance and long-term durable solutions. As part of the durable solutions developed for refugees, Zambia provides local integration assistance to former refugees from Angola and Rwanda, whose refugee status in Zambia has ceased in recent years.

Extreme weather events and disasters such as floods and persistent droughts contribute to the internal displacement of people in Zambia. Other factors contributing to internal displacement include land disputes, development projects, encroachment of populations on land meant for other activities, and conflicts in areas along national borders.

The Ministry of Home Affairs coordinates assistance to externally displaced people, in collaboration with the UNHCR and other actors such as the Zambia Red Cross, Oxfam, World Vision and the International Organization for Migration. Assistance to internally displaced people is coordinated by the Government's Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit under the office of the Vice-President, working with other non-state actors such as the Zambia Red Cross, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision, Habitat for Humanity, and Caritas.



© Zambia Red Cross Society

### Main actions and areas of support

The Zambia Red Cross responds to the pressing needs of migrants and displaced people through its disaster and health interventions. It also offers restoring family links services. In 2023, the Zambia Red Cross will:

- Ensure that the needs of vulnerable migrants are addressed through effective access to essential services, including the establishment of humanitarian service points
- Ensure that joined-up humanitarian assistance and protection services are provided to migrants, displaced people and their families by engaging with local and national authorities, host communities and affected people, in partnership and collaboration with other relevant organizations

The IFRC will support the Zambia Red Cross to implement services for vulnerable migrants, mobilize resources for increased engagement, and support and link the National Society with other migration-related actors and platforms.

### Values, power and inclusion

Levels of inequality between rural and urban areas of Zambia continue to rise, disproportionately affecting girls and women. The poverty rate in rural Zambia is 78 per cent and, according to the World Bank’s 2021 report Empowering Rural Women in Zambia to Move out of Poverty, women and adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable as they tend to have less knowledge and fewer skills to help them realize their potential.

Child marriage remains high, at 29 per cent for girls, according to the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (2018). Nearly one in five (18 per cent) of learners who drop out of school do so because of teen pregnancy or child marriage, with 96.4 per cent of those affected being girls. 14.8 per cent of head teachers surveyed had received reports of child sexual abuse. The placing of children in institutional care has increased by 20.8 per cent. COVID-19 has triggered mental health issues, including anxiety and depression linked to food insecurity, household violence and alcohol consumption at home. According to UNICEF, child migration continues to be a concern and new migrations routes have emerged.

According to statistics from the Zambia Police Victim Support Unit, there has been a steady increase in reported cases of gender-based violence. In 2012, 13,000 cases were reported. In 2020, this number had risen to 26,000 cases. These numbers have since reduced in 2021, dropping to 21,000. This represents a 23 per cent reduction.

An estimated 7.2 per cent of Zambia’s population live with a disability. Among other socio-economic challenges, people living with disabilities face limitations in accessing equitable, quality health care. The situation is worse for women and girls living with disabilities, as they are more likely to be exposed to sexual abuse and other forms of physical and mental abuse. According to the United Nations Population Fund, women living with disabilities are up to 10 times more likely to experience sexual violence, and young people living with disabilities are up to four times more likely to experience violence.

## Main actions and areas of support

With support from the IFRC and the Netherlands Red Cross, the Zambia Red Cross will mainstream protection, gender and inclusion throughout its activities to ensure communities' dignity, access, participation and safety. Recognizing that peoples' needs, risks and coping strategies vary significantly by age, gender, disability and background, the National Society will pay particular attention to gender and diversity analysis and to the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups. Community vulnerability assessments and analysis will consider gender and diversity and, during anticipatory actions, all sectors will seek to meet the IFRC minimum standards on protection, gender and inclusion.

The Zambia Red Cross will adopt programming modalities that enable effective community engagement and respect for local knowledge, expertise and perspectives. It will do this by setting up systems that enable communities to access trusted, actionable information, to participate in programme design, and to provide feedback. The National Society will develop a community engagement and accountability performance measurement framework with clear benchmarks to ensure consistency and alignment with international commitments, such as the Core Humanitarian Standards for Quality and Accountability.

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## Enabling local actors

The Zambia Red Cross is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening, and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2013. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Zambia Red Cross is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process, and is at the action and accountability phase. The PER Approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take the actions necessary to improve it.

The IFRC and network partners are committed to supporting the Zambia Red Cross to become a stronger institution in line with the priorities it has defined for itself.

## Main actions and areas of support

The Zambia Red Cross will strive to acquire the communications and public advocacy resources and advice it needs in order to increase its impact, boost public trust and improve understanding of its role and activities. It will strengthen its auxiliary role, positioning and voice in humanitarian and development fora. The National Society will establish new networks on key themes at regional and global levels so that it has stronger visibility and resources.

The Zambia Red Cross will work towards having information technology systems that provide the foundations for it to run efficiently, ensure accountability, be 'data ready' to engage staff and volunteers, and support operational decision-making and business intelligence. In 2023, it will work towards digitalizing information management applications, which will offer the potential to substantially improve disaster preparedness management by facilitating knowledge sharing and more effective operations. Digitized, integrated real-time data will be a potential game changer for mitigating, managing and building resilience to the impacts of disasters. It will increase the options for disaster risk mapping, household surveys and historical profiling, and will run through the National Society's collaboration with government structures at all levels.

The Zambia Red Cross will develop guidelines, tools and mechanisms to prevent, manage and address risks to integrity and reputation. These will include policies around fraud and corruption, preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse, non-discrimination, harassment and child safeguarding.

The Zambia Red Cross will embed quality control and quality assurance into its programmes. It will also develop monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the entire National Society and will follow policies that have already been developed to ensure quality programming in areas such as data protection, fraud and human resources.

# THE IFRC NETWORK

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## The IFRC

**The IFRC** supports the Zambia Red Cross from its country cluster delegation in Harare, Zimbabwe, as well as from its regional office in Nairobi. The IFRC has a cholera country support platform manager and operations delegate in-country, who offer technical support to the National Society.

The IFRC's strategic role is to support the Zambia Red Cross to address key humanitarian challenges and trends, and to ensure that it stays up to date, relevant and influential within Zambia. The IFRC supports National Society development to ensure that the Zambia Red Cross is prepared to respond to emergencies, while achieving and maintaining a sustainable organization aligned to the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The IFRC also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Zambia Red Cross through a number of DREF and Emergency Appeal [operations](#) in relation to cholera outbreaks, floods, population movement, drought and food insecurity. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC has supported the National Society's COVID-19 response through its [global Emergency Appeal](#).

The IFRC provides sectoral and capacity building support to the Zambia Red Cross in a range of areas. The most significant include:

- Training in cash and voucher assistance, forecast-based financing and disaster response (for national disaster response teams)
- Technical advice on disaster response, simulation exercises, development and implementation of an early action plan
- A feasibility study for cash and voucher assistance and initial cash preparedness self-assessment, showing that the National Society was cash ready at level three and recommended for capacity building
- Implementation of the Red Rose data management platform in 2021, with financial support from the British Red Cross

## IFRC membership coordination




IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agree common priorities; co-develop common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, and mobilizing funding and other resources; and clarify consistent public messaging; and monitor progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action and development assistance, while reinforcing the auxiliary role of the National Societies.

The Zambia Red Cross is part of the four IFRC Pan-African initiatives focusing on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready and National Society Development. These initiatives are reflected under the relevant sections of this plan.

The Zambia Red Cross is a member of relevant Red Cross Red Crescent networks, notably the Southern Africa Partnerships of Red Cross Societies, which reinforces its position as an important humanitarian actor in the region.

The Zambia Red Cross is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership between the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations \(ECHO\) and the IFRC](#). It benefits from the support of the Netherlands Red Cross, as the lead European Union National Society, along with the IFRC, to implement activities in disaster risk management and cash and voucher assistance. Risk communication, and community engagement and accountability, will be addressed as cross-cutting themes, integrated in the main pillars of intervention. This partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with greater impact. It leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities, helping to fulfil the ambitions of the European Union as the world's biggest donor for international aid.

## Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Italian Red Cross	CHF 0.05M								
Netherlands Red Cross	CHF 0.71M								

### Total

0.76M

Coordination meetings take place regularly in Zambia between the National Society and **the Netherlands Red Cross**, which is the only participating National Society present in the country. The Netherlands Red Cross has supported the Zambia Red Cross with water, sanitation, hygiene and community-based health programmes for a number of years. This work includes reproductive health, community health, water and sanitation, pneumonia reduction and health resilience

programmes. During the COVID-19 outbreak, the Netherlands Red Cross supported the Zambia Red Cross with risk communication and community engagement, epidemic control, case management, contact tracing, and the provision of safe water and hygiene promotion.

The **Italian Red Cross** supports the Zambia Red Cross with branch development through income-generating activities in the Mungwi, Mansa and Lusaka branches. It is not currently present in the country.

## Movement coordination

The Zambia Red Cross collaborates closely with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Netherlands Red Cross, ensuring an aligned approach across the Movement in support of its priorities. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening

Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC provides technical support to the Zambia Red Cross on restoring family links, but does not have a presence in the country.

## Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Zambia Red Cross maintains close coordination with a range of ministries, departments and government bodies, demonstrated by its engagement in disaster risk management, health, water, sanitation and hygiene.

The National Society has an agreement with the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit to work with disaster management committees at province, district and satellite levels, as well as on relief distribution and camp management. It has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Zambia National Public Health Institute, which is the part of the Ministry of Health which is responsible for public health security and surveillance.

The Zambia Red Cross also has agreements with the Water Resource Management Authority, the Zambia Police and the Zambia Army, as well as a signed contract with financial service provider MTN for cash and voucher assistance activities. Further working relationships, understanding and collaboration are in place between the National Society and the Zambia Meteorological Department, Ministry of Education's school clubs, Mulungushi University, Zambia News and Information Services, Zambia Air Force, and the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare.

The Zambia Red Cross is one of the few member organizations of the National Disaster Management Consultative Forum, National Cash Working Group and Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, which is hosted by the Zambian Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU). This platform gathers all agencies and organizations working on disaster risk reduction in

Zambia to ensure coordination and sharing of experience. Within the framework of the Disaster Management Act, a sub-group has been formed at national level to focus on anticipatory action and the management of the forecast-based action mechanisms for riverine floods. This sub-group is made up of the Zambia Red Cross and several state technical services.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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### **Zambia Red Cross Society**

**W** [zamcross.org.zm](http://zamcross.org.zm)

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