



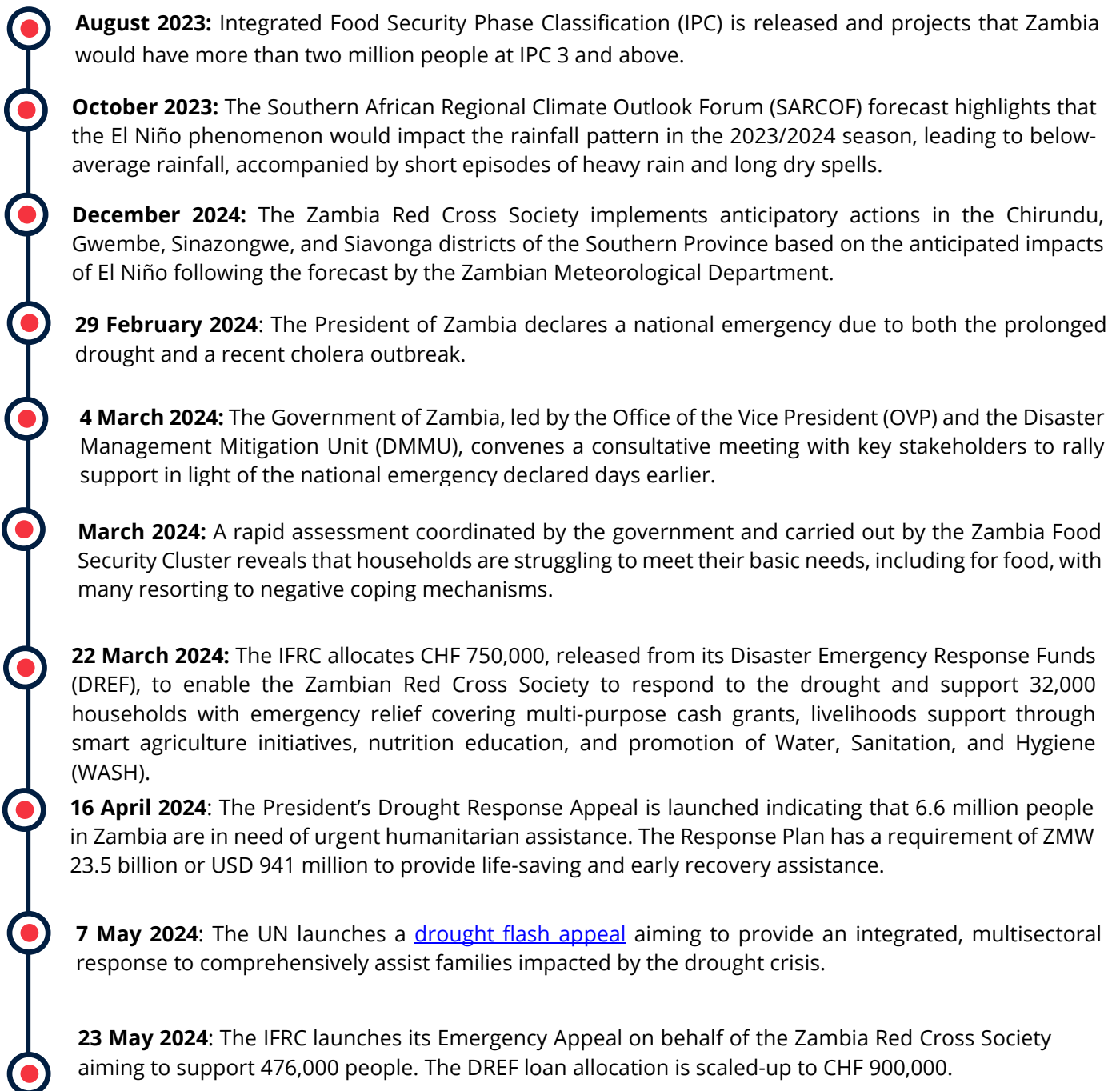
Zambia Red Cross staff talking to one of the drought-affected families in Kabwe District of Central Province, Zambia. Photo © ZRCS

Appeal No: MDRZM022	To be assisted: 380,160 (out of 6.6m people in need)	Appeal launched: 23/05/24
Glide No: DR-2024-000018-ZMB	DREF allocated: CHF 900,000	Disaster Categorization: Orange
Operation Start date: 22/03/2024	Operation End date: 30/06/2025	

IFRC Secretariat Funding requirement: CHF 8 million
Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 11 million¹

¹ The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Zambia Red Cross Society in response to the emergency. It includes the Zambia Red Cross' domestic fundraising, supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies bilateral support to the Zambia Red Cross, as well as the IFRC Secretariat funding requirement. This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilised to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.

TIMELINE

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- August 2023:** Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is released and projects that Zambia would have more than two million people at IPC 3 and above.
 - October 2023:** The Southern African Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) forecast highlights that the El Niño phenomenon would impact the rainfall pattern in the 2023/2024 season, leading to below-average rainfall, accompanied by short episodes of heavy rain and long dry spells.
 - December 2024:** The Zambia Red Cross Society implements anticipatory actions in the Chirundu, Gwembe, Sinazongwe, and Siavonga districts of the Southern Province based on the anticipated impacts of El Niño following the forecast by the Zambian Meteorological Department.
 - 29 February 2024:** The President of Zambia declares a national emergency due to both the prolonged drought and a recent cholera outbreak.
 - 4 March 2024:** The Government of Zambia, led by the Office of the Vice President (OVP) and the Disaster Management Mitigation Unit (DMMU), convenes a consultative meeting with key stakeholders to rally support in light of the national emergency declared days earlier.
 - March 2024:** A rapid assessment coordinated by the government and carried out by the Zambia Food Security Cluster reveals that households are struggling to meet their basic needs, including for food, with many resorting to negative coping mechanisms.
 - 22 March 2024:** The IFRC allocates CHF 750,000, released from its Disaster Emergency Response Funds (DREF), to enable the Zambian Red Cross Society to respond to the drought and support 32,000 households with emergency relief covering multi-purpose cash grants, livelihoods support through smart agriculture initiatives, nutrition education, and promotion of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH).
 - 16 April 2024:** The President's Drought Response Appeal is launched indicating that 6.6 million people in Zambia are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. The Response Plan has a requirement of ZMW 23.5 billion or USD 941 million to provide life-saving and early recovery assistance.
 - 7 May 2024:** The UN launches a [drought flash appeal](#) aiming to provide an integrated, multisectoral response to comprehensively assist families impacted by the drought crisis.
 - 23 May 2024:** The IFRC launches its Emergency Appeal on behalf of the Zambia Red Cross Society aiming to support 476,000 people. The DREF loan allocation is scaled-up to CHF 900,000.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

Zambia is undergoing one of the driest agricultural seasons in more than forty years, causing major crop and livestock losses and severely affecting the well-being and livelihoods of communities nationwide. According to ongoing reports from the UN, 84 out of 116 districts in the country have been affected by this crisis. The IPC report from August 2023² projected an estimated 58,000 people, between October 2023 and March 2024, to be in an Emergency condition (IPC Phase 4) and two million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and requiring urgent humanitarian support.



Deteriorating drought conditions in Zambia. Photo © ZRCS

On 29 February 2024, the President of Zambia declared a national emergency due to the prolonged drought. On 16 April 2024, the joint rapid needs assessment³ commissioned by the Agriculture and Food Security Cluster and the National Government Drought Response Appeal indicated that 6.6 million people were in need of urgent humanitarian assistance (33 per cent of Zambia's total population according to World Bank data). This includes more than three million children under 18 years of age, mostly based in the provinces of Lusaka, Luapula, and the Western, Eastern, Southern, Central, and North-Western Provinces. According to the assessment report, the top three provinces with more than 1.3 million people in need are Western, Southern, and North-Western. The report also highlights that many households are struggling to meet their basic needs, including access to food, with many resorting to negative coping mechanisms.

Although most of the surveyed households reported that they cultivated maize and other crops in the 2023/2024 season, projected production levels were minimal, and the majority of households reported total crop failure particularly due to the prolonged dry spells. Likewise, livestock and fisheries are equally affected due to the drying of water sources, almost half of surveyed households that kept livestock reported a reduction of pastures especially for cattle, while 39 per cent indicated that distance to water points increased.

The country continues to recover from a cholera outbreak that began in October 2023, with over 21,000 reported cases. The decreased access to water has also led to outbreaks of diarrheal and other vector-borne diseases, exacerbating the health crisis. The IFRC, in support of the Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS), launched a [Cholera Emergency Appeal](#) in October 2023. Zambia has regions that are also prone to malaria, which could spike once bodies of water and water sources start drying up creating conducive breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

In response to the compounding impacts of the drought in Zambia, the IFRC, in support of the ZRCS, is appealing for CHF 11 million (Federation-wide), to scale-up its operation initially funded by the DREF.

Severity of humanitarian conditions

According to the ACAPS brief for Zambia,⁴ since March 2024, severe drought conditions have destroyed one million hectares of maize, which accounts for nearly half of the country's maize under cultivation. By 6 March 2024, over six million people from farming households were at risk of acute food shortages and malnutrition until the next planting season in December.

² Zambia: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for August - Projection for October 2023 - March 2024

³ The Agriculture and Food Security Cluster coordinated by the Disaster Management Unit (DMMU), chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture, and co-chaired by the WFP and FAO, commissioned a joint rapid assessment <https://reliefweb.int/report/zambia/wfp-zambia-drought-response-april-2024>

⁴ https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20240315_ACAPS_briefing_note_drought_in_Zambia.pdf

Drought has affected overall food availability too, as revealed by an assessment of local food markets, which shows significant shortages of key commodities. This low supply, at a time when demand is increasing, is driving up food prices, which in turn, impacts overall food access due to reduced household purchasing power.

The scarcity of water has deteriorated the health conditions of numerous Zambians, with a significant impact on children, women in the countryside, and other vulnerable groups. Food scarcity puts children in jeopardy, as undernourishment impairs their immune defences, making them more prone to diseases. It is anticipated that the drought's effect on the limited availability and accessibility to a variety of food will escalate the levels of social susceptibility and exacerbate the issue of malnutrition.

There has been decreased access to water, thus threatening not only human lives but also potentially leading to increased protection risks for women and children as the distances and time required to fetch water increase. Female-headed households and adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable to increased violence, exploitation, and abuse. Additionally, the drought has severely impacted Zambia's electricity supply. The country's reliance on hydroelectric power has been compromised due to low water levels in critical dams such as Itezhi-Tezhi, Kafue Gorge, and Kariba. This has led to a reduction in power generation and more frequent power outages.

The rapid assessment coordinated by the national government and carried out by the Zambia Food Security Cluster in March 2024 revealed that households are struggling to meet their basic needs, including food. Furthermore, with the shocks that were experienced, children under 5, the elderly, and lactating mothers are already engaging in emergency coping strategies (IPC Phase 4 and 5), leading to the possibility that nutrition status has deteriorated. With these constraints on access to nutritious food, protein-energy and micronutrient deficiencies among pregnant and lactating women and young children are expected to increase, contributing to excess maternal and under-five mortality. An estimated 102,000 children are likely to suffer from severe wasting in 2024, over 270,000 under-fives are estimated to become moderately wasted, and over 1.7 million pregnant women are estimated to be anaemic.

The ongoing drought has disrupted food access, exacerbated food security issues, and contributed to a rise in malnutrition cases. These effects are expected to persist until early 2025. Malnourished individuals face increased vulnerability to infections and a higher risk of complications from illnesses. The strain on healthcare services, coupled with malnutrition-related risks, may lead to higher mortality rates. Additionally, the expected below-average harvests in 2024 will drive up maize imports during the 2024–2025 period, further inflating already elevated maize prices.

Across southern African countries, including Zambia, food prices are projected to surpass both 2023 levels and the five-year average. This combination of high costs and limited income access is likely to keep household purchasing power low in the region according to FEWS NET. As the peak of the 2024–2025 lean season approaches in early 2025, food assistance needs are expected to exceed those seen in the first quarter of 2024. Impoverished households in severely affected areas may experience significant food deficits, reaching Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity levels if humanitarian aid is not provided. This projection is based on an anticipated loss of nearly 50 per cent of maize yields and a historically below-average harvest.

CAPACITIES AND RESPONSE

1. National Society response capacity

1.1 National Society capacity and ongoing response

The ZRCS has a mandate to respond in an emergency through its network of 60 branches, 66 staff, and 7,857 volunteers with coverage nationwide and active offices in 60 out of 116 districts. For this drought crisis, the ZRCS acted promptly and activated the weekly emergency response coordination mechanism to discuss the response to this crisis.

To date, the ZRCS, with the support of the Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC) and IFRC, has been contributing to the government's response operations as follows:

- In March 2024, the IFRC released CHF 750,000 from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to support 32,000 households (160,000 people) with emergency relief through multi-purpose cash grants, livelihood support through smart agriculture initiatives, nutrition education and promotion of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). This was later scaled-up to an Emergency Appeal with a loan of CHF 900,000.
- The ZRCS distributed cash to 3,000 households in IPC4 district in Sioma for three months as part of the emergency response for the ECHO Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP).
- The ZRCS is also part of UN clusters which were activated for the drought response by the government through its Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) (please refer to section 1.2 for more details).
- The ZRCS's internal coordination mechanism is meeting weekly to discuss the response to this crisis.
- The ZRCS participated in a rapid assessment coordinated by the government through the Zambia Food Security Cluster.

The ZRCS is coordinating with other humanitarian organisations, government agencies, and local authorities thereby ensuring a unified and effective response to the cholera outbreak.

Currently, the ZRCS is also responding to the cholera outbreak through an Emergency Appeal ([MDRZM021](#)) launched by the IFRC in January 2024. The ZRCS and IFRC will ensure coordination between the Emergency Appeals through an Incident Management System (IMS) and the newly established Emergency Operation Centre (EOC). All key ZRCS departments will continue holding joint meetings to plan, review, and strategize the ongoing response operations. The IFRC and NLRC will also be part of this coordination. The Cholera EA is being managed by the ZRCS Health Department while the Drought EA is being managed by the Disaster Management Department. The Cholera EA is being implemented in Lusaka, Central and Copperbelt provinces and Drought EA is being implemented in Southern province. Cross cutting issues such as PGI and CEA are integrated in both EAs and support is being provided through coordination mechanism set at the beginning of the Cholera response. The coordination mechanisms were also set up to ensure the complementarity of two EAs.

The ZRCS and IFRC have invested in strengthening Community, Engagement Accountability (CEA) capacity as part of the cholera response. The feedback database is being used to record and analyse the input received which will be used to guide and improve the response. In addition, the ZRCS, with support from the IFRC, has installed a functional data management dashboard that enhances the work on community feedback and complaints analysis collected through community volunteers during activities in communities, suggestion boxes, social media platforms, and responses provided through community meetings. The available CEA structure will be used as an integrated system to ensure that the information and feedback flow is well-coordinated. The real-time data information flow will further help to ensure the response is integrated.

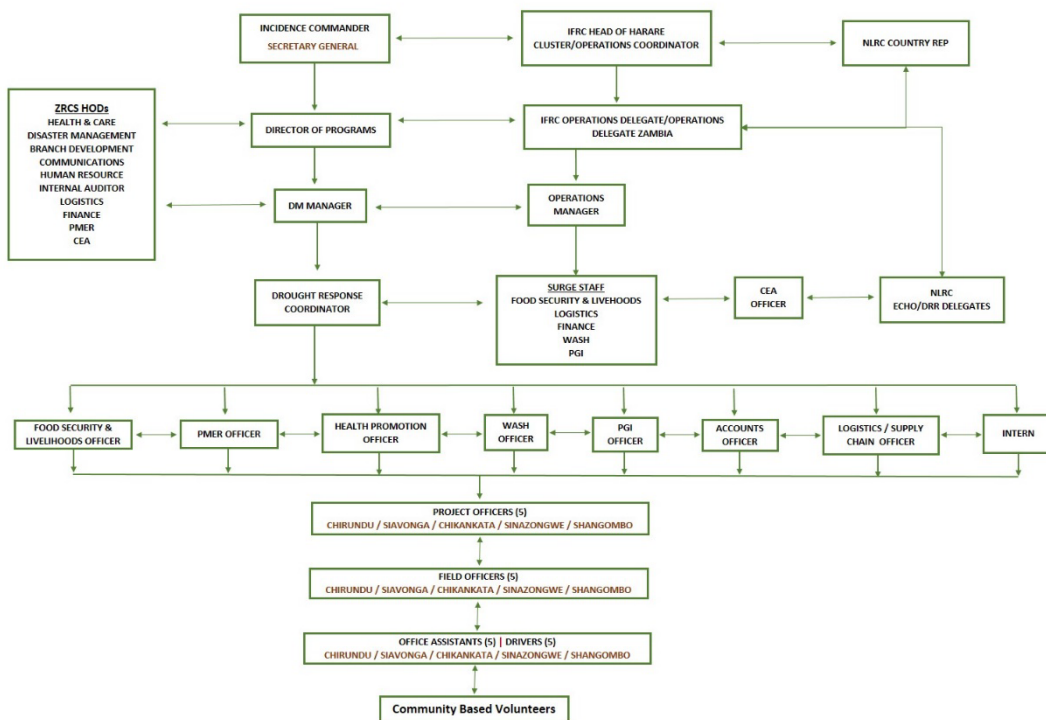
Human resource needs for the response

The operation will ensure the optimization of existing HR in the Cholera response where necessary. For example, the WASH surge delegate and WASH Officer for Zambia will be responsible for supporting both EAs. The National Society has also put in place a systems so that the staff working in cross cutting officers areas will also have the responsibility of supporting both EAs.

The following is the Federation-wide human resources (HR) structure that has been set up for this response:



ZRCS Drought Operations Structure



At the national level, the ZRCS Secretary-General is the overall Incident Commander in liaison with the IFRC Head of CCD in Harare and the Country Representative with the NLRC. Below, the Director of Programmes, who works hand in hand with the IFRC Operations Delegate, will provide technical support to the implementation of activities led by the Disaster Management (DM) unit. The DM department, led by the Disaster Manager, works closely technically with the IFRC Operations Manager. The implementation of the entire operation is coordinated by other technical specialists on the ZRCS and IFRC surge teams to ensure quality delivery of the operation. Additional support will come from different corporate services departments such as Finance, Logistics, HR, Internal Audit, Branch Development, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER), and CEA. The implementation of the entire operation is coordinated by other technical persons in the ZRCS and supported by IFRC surge teams to ensure quality delivery of the operation.

At the district level, with technical support from the DM unit, Project Officers will work with Field Officers, support staff, and volunteers in the direct coordination and implementation of the activities. The ultimate goal of this team is to ensure that the targeted population of the operation (at the community level) is reached with the assistance required and that there is good coordination at all levels with relevant partners.

1.2 Capacity and response at the national level

After the declaration of emergency by the president, the Government of Zambia, through the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU), activated all of the relevant clusters at the national level to coordinate the response. This includes the Food Security, Agriculture and Livestock, Nutrition, WASH, RCCE, Education, Early Recovery, Energy, Logistics, and Protection clusters. The ZRCS is part of these but also a member of other clusters, including Agriculture, and the CASH Working group. The clusters play an essential role in facilitating the joint rapid needs assessment and also in the development of the National Drought Response and Recovery Plan.

The ZRCS is a member of various DRM structures at different levels, and this includes the Disaster Management Committees (PDMC) at the provincial level, the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) at the district level, and the Satellite Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) and Welfare Assistance Committee (CWAC) at the community level. These structures ensure better coordination of the response efforts.

The national response activities from the Government of Zambia concerning the drought are as follows:

- Lead the distribution of food supplies to the 84 affected districts.
- Support preparedness, response, and recovery actions.
- Lead on the identification, verification, and registration of people for cash, food, and climate-smart agriculture through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services.
- Lead on the response coordination through the clusters by the DMMU.
- Lead in the development of the national drought response and appeal to support resource mobilisation.
- Conduct joint needs assessments in coordination with other partners and stakeholders.
- Planning to conduct the Zambia Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, in which the ZRCS will participate.
- Raise public awareness on the impacts of the drought through media engagements.
- Set up a 5W matrix for the mapping of stakeholders responding to this emergency.

2. International capacity and response

2.1 Red Cross Red Crescent Movement capacity and response

IFRC membership

The IFRC Secretariat plays an essential role in ensuring effective coordination across the Federation, through the IFRC Harare Country Cluster Delegation (CCD). The IFRC has two country Delegates in Zambia (one Operations Delegate and a second delegate under the Cholera Country Support Platform (CSP) programme working closely with the National Society in providing technical guidance and development of the operation plans. As part of the ongoing support to the ZRCS, the in-country operations delegate supports the overall strategic and technical management of the operations. Currently, the IFRC also has a technical surge team supporting the Cholera EA covering the areas of WASH, RCCE/CEA, and Food Security and Livelihoods. The IFRC continues to support the ZRCS in implementing systems and tools for emergency preparedness and response in collaboration with the NLRC and other external partners. Some of the tools used in preparedness and response include Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) processes, the development of Early Action Protocols and their activation, needs assessment tools, as well as the use of DREF and Emergency Appeals.

The NLRC is the only PNS in-country and has been supporting the ZRCS in several response operations. This includes bilateral support to the previous drought response operations and Cholera Emergency response in 2023 and 2024. Over the years, the NLRC has supported the National Society's actions through its Response and Preparedness project. Currently, the NLRC, through the ECHO PPP, is supporting the cash transfer programme in Sioma District. The IFRC and NLRC are in regular contact and coordination to strengthen their support to the ZRCS.

ICRC

The IFRC Harare Cluster Delegation is in regular communication with the ICRC Regional Delegation in Pretoria. Weekly meetings are held to ensure there is strong coordination and effective technical support for the ZRCS, and complementarity, to maintain a harmonised response plan. In this response, the IFRC and ICRC are providing advice on the overall safety and security support to Movement partners. In partnership with the ZRCS, the ICRC supports Restoring Family Links (RFL) as well as enhancing operational safety and security through the Safer Access Framework. The IFRC Harare Country Cluster Delegation is also in regular communication with the ICRC on this matter.

2.2 International Humanitarian Stakeholder capacity and response

In May 2023, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) launched a Regional Humanitarian Appeal seeking USD 5 billion in response to the effects of El Niño. This appeal was launched to ensure that there is robust coordination among SADC member states. The SADC appeal to the El Niño Induced Drought and Floods in May 2024 was fundamental to seeking support from diverse agencies to support the people affected.

UN agencies, through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), launched a flash appeal for the drought response in Zambia targeting all 84 districts and engaging a total of 47 organisations. The Flash Appeal aligns with the Government of Zambia's latest data, which indicates that 6.6 million people are currently in need and has a target of 4.4 million people through a funding ask of USD 941 million. The UN OCHA, a co-chair of the inter-cluster working group that the DMMU activated, has also activated the Humanitarian

Coordination Team (HCT), which the ZRCS and IFRC are part of, and are holding frequent meetings to coordinate an effective response to this disaster. There have been some discussions on a potential collaboration with the UN in the response, and the ZRCS has submitted a proposal to the UN World Food Programme (WFP) for a partnership in cash and other livelihood support in the affected districts. The IFRC is participating in the HCT and cluster coordination meetings ensuring complementarity with the planned response by the UN and other humanitarian actors.

The WFP and Food Agriculture Organisation (FAO) are in the process of mobilising resources to support the affected communities with cash for food. Other partners and UN agencies are part of the activated clusters, actively mobilising resources, and a 5W matrix was developed for partners to indicate what and where they will be supporting in this response.

3. Gaps in the response

The country faces one of the worst droughts in decades, exacerbated by El Niño weather conditions during the 2023/2024 rainy season. The situation has come at a time when 2.04 million people across the country are already facing food insecurity as revealed by the IPC Report 2023. Some of the drivers of food insecurity include poor agricultural practices in the face of climate change, floods, high food prices, fall armyworms, and cassava brown streak disease. For the 2023/2024 season, the prolonged dry spells have been heavily impacting the food security situation in the country. The drought has not only affected the availability of food for humans but also livestock, and this calls for immediate support.

The probability of having increased food prices and scarcity of food commodities in the market is very high as the whole southern half of Zambia has been affected, which accounts for 60 per cent of the total food production of the country. The scarcity of food in Zambia may also contribute to the exacerbation of other problems, such as cholera and anthrax, which have been some of the epidemics the country is struggling with. In the absence of food and water, people tend to compromise hygiene practices, leading to an increase in cholera cases. At the same time, access to game meat and other livestock might be seen as an option to cover food shortages, thus further spreading anthrax.

Food Security and Livelihoods: The majority of households in Sinazongwe, Siavonga, Chirundu, and Chikankata are among the reported districts with low yields in the 2023/2024 season. The drought season has impacted food production due to poor harvests from distressed farmers thus compromising food security. Likewise, livestock and fisheries have been equally affected due to the drying of water sources, with 44 per cent of surveyed households that keep livestock reporting reduced pasture, especially for cattle, while 39 per cent reported increased distance to water points. The drought has also affected overall food availability, as revealed by an assessment of local food markets, which shows significant shortages of key commodities.

Health: The health implications of the current drought are numerous and far-reaching. Some drought-related health effects are experienced in the short-term and can be directly observed and measured. However, the slow rise or chronic nature of the drought can result in longer-term, indirect health implications that are not always easy to anticipate or monitor. Some expected impacts are compromised food intake resulting in poor nutrition conditions such as stunting, anaemia, protein-energy malnutrition, diarrhoeas and skin conditions, delayed milestones and lethargy (especially in children below five years of age), and poor hygiene practices, which could lead to more serious health implications like acute watery diarrhoea (AWD).

According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) (2022), protein-energy malnutrition figures indicate that 45 per cent of Zambian children are stunted, 15 per cent are underweight, while 5 per cent are wasted. These rates are among the highest in the sub-regions in which most of the targeted districts fall. Children in rural areas (36 per cent) are more likely to be stunted than those in urban areas (32 per cent). At the provincial level, Northern has the highest percentage of stunted children (46 per cent) while Western and Southern provinces are at (29 per cent), ZDHS (2018).

Limited access to basic sanitation services and safe drinking water is a major obstacle to achieving improvements in the health and development of children and women in the affected districts. This reinforces a host of problems, contributing to childhood illness, malnutrition and elevated school drop-out rates for adolescent girls amongst other issues.

Low water levels in rivers and the drop in groundwater levels in the southern part of the country are likely to result in increased interactions between wild animals and livestock. These interactions are expected to lead to an increase in livestock diseases as livestock and wild animals will be drinking from the same water sources. The occurrence of livestock diseases, such as anthrax, is likely to further erode the coping capacity and livelihoods of the population within the drought-affected areas. Human and animal conflict over water has led to the outbreak of zoonotic diseases, such as anthrax. Food insecurity caused by the drought poses a high risk of people eating meat from dead animals that died from such diseases.

There is a likelihood for limited access to health services, such as child immunisation, antenatal care, family planning, and continued care for chronic illnesses like tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS as affected families may focus on spending their limited income on food alone at the expense of seeking health care services.

Given the drought situation that the country is currently experiencing, the impacts highlighted are likely to be exacerbated, underscoring the urgent need for coordinated efforts to avert and address these public health challenges.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: The drought has resulted in the lowering of the groundwater table, leading to the drying up of boreholes, and shallow and deep wells. Surface water availability has also been affected, with water levels in rivers, streams, and dams continuing to decrease and dry up, resulting in insufficient clean and safe water for domestic, livestock, and agriculture use. Currently, only 49 per cent of the rural population has access to safe drinking water, while only 28 per cent have access to improved sanitation (ZDHS, 2018). The 2024 Food Security Cluster Rapid Assessment in 27 districts found that 31.1 per cent of households had already changed their main water sources due to water scarcity as a result of the drought.

Inadequate water supply remains a challenge leading to increased incidences of disease outbreaks. The country is still recovering from a cholera outbreak that started in October 2023 and has recorded over 21,000 cases. Decreased access to safe water can lead to outbreaks of diarrheal diseases such as AWD, bilharzia, typhoid, dysentery, and skin diseases, some of which can be exacerbated by poor hygienic practices such as poor handwashing, menstrual hygiene management (MHM), and unsafe disposal of excreta.

Communities will need to be supported with improved water supply sources, WASH items, hygiene promotion, menstrual hygiene management, the formation of water point committees, household water treatment, rehabilitation, and the upgrading of water points.

The water sector is vulnerable to the effects of climate change. In Zambia, the impacts of climate change are experienced mostly through water in terms of drought. It is important to note that during drought, both surface and underground water sources are affected, reinforcing the importance of establishing resilient water conservation and harvesting systems through community actions on conservation and preservation measures such as the construction of community weirs, dams, or ponds, and practicing conservation agriculture.

Girls of childbearing age are greatly affected with regards to the menstrual cycle, due to the non-availability of income, as they are unable to access sanitary pads. Access to usual water points may dry up due to insufficient rain, thus causing girls to travel long distances to access water. The rehabilitation of existing water points will, therefore, be crucial to the response.

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion: The impact of the drought affects different social groups in various ways. Increased economic hardships due to the drought, which can lead to food insecurity, have the potential to affect sub-groups (women and children, people with disabilities-PWD) through social exclusion and marginalisation, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), including

child labour. The scarcity of resources during emergencies creates tensions and heightens the risks of SGBV mostly for girls and women. The underlying causes of violence are associated with attitudes, beliefs, norms, and structures that promote and/or condone gender-based discrimination and unequal power dynamics. In the face of the drought and loss of livelihoods, those entrusted to protect girls and young women can be the ones that endanger their lives and well-being.

In the current drought situation, the affected and vulnerable groups adopt negative coping mechanisms, resulting in increased cases of early/child marriages, school dropouts, early pregnancies, poor school attendance, increased crimes, and sex work, all of which have been reported.

According to Newton Sibanda (23 May 2024), Webster Ntambo from Ntambo village in chief Liteta's area in Chibombo district indicated that since the onset of the drought, there have been increased cases of theft in the areas, "They steal anything, even chickens, in some cases, they break into homes to steal food. We are also hearing of cases of marriages frequently being strained due to the circumstances, and parents are struggling to control their daughters due to hunger in homes."

Sensitisation and awareness sessions of affected families will be conducted to safeguard vulnerable groups, such as young girls. The operation will support the formation and strengthening of community protection structures like victim support units, referral pathways, integrity lines, the establishment of one-stop centres, and school committees to report cases, together with support for school feeding programmes to enhance school attendance and the training of teachers in protection issues, the involvement of local leaders in dealing with protection cases, and supporting protection events including commemoration of child labour days.

Community Engagement and Accountability: The response operation will ensure that community engagement is a major component which will ensure that communities are consulted and involved at every level from the initial stage. Identifying and addressing the needs of specific populations within the affected communities that are facing these challenges is essential for accessing needed support. The interventions will incorporate marginalised populations, such as children, women, vulnerable adults, and people living with disabilities, who are more likely to experience adverse outcomes during drought emergencies.

Communities need information as much as they need services from the response operation. The response will ensure that communities are well-informed about the operation's plans, progress, activities, selection criteria and distribution processes, delays and challenges, and their rights and entitlements. Preferred two-way communication and community feedback systems will be established to deliver interventions with higher quality and impact. The drought response will ensure that communities understand and translate risks into locally appropriate ways to address the needs as per the pillars of the operation.

A joint rapid assessment will ensure the response is based on a thorough understanding of community needs, priorities, and the sociocultural context, including preferred ways to receive information, participate, and give feedback. This will support the effective mainstreaming of CEA approaches to strengthen and/or establish mechanisms that enable communities and key stakeholders to participate in planning and guiding the response. Community engagement will build the backbone for enhancing effectiveness and sustainability, as well as response actions.

OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

El Niño: El Niño significantly impacts Zambia's climate, causing drought, erratic rainfall, flooding, and high temperatures, particularly between January and April. These extreme weather conditions pose considerable operational constraints for the ZRCS. During El Niño, reduced rainfall and higher temperatures exacerbate food insecurity by hampering maize production and increasing disease and pest outbreaks among livestock and crops. The need for rapid response and resource mobilisation to mitigate these impacts strains the operational capacities of the National Society, highlighting the critical need for efficient disaster risk reduction and response mechanisms.

Climate Change and Increased Vulnerability: Climate change has intensified Zambia's already high rainfall variability, leading to more frequent and severe floods, dry spells, and outbreaks. Over the past three decades, these climatic shifts have contributed to decreased annual rainfall and shorter rainy seasons, particularly affecting the southern provinces. This variability not only jeopardises maize cultivation but also complicates the operational landscape for the ZRCS. With limited institutional capacities, inadequate infrastructure, and high socioeconomic vulnerabilities, these factors pose significant challenges in addressing the compounded effects of climate change. The increased frequency of extreme weather events necessitates more robust disaster preparedness and response strategies to protect vulnerable populations and maintain food security.

Floods: The severe flooding in January 2023, which affected nine of Zambia's ten provinces, underscored the operational constraints faced by the ZRCS. The floods, the worst in 50 years, impacted over 400,000 people and severely disrupted maize production in the Southern province. This disaster occurred amid existing food insecurity, further straining the resources and response capabilities of these organisations. Destroyed farmlands and disrupted planting cycles exacerbated food shortages, increasing the number of food-insecure individuals to over 3.8 million by August 2023. The challenge of responding to such large-scale disasters highlights the urgent need for enhanced disaster risk reduction, resource allocation, and coordination efforts to effectively manage and mitigate the impacts of future climate-related events.

Cholera Outbreak: The current drought in Zambia coincides with the country's efforts to manage one of the worst cholera outbreaks in southern Africa. In 2023, Zambia faced three cholera outbreaks in different regions. From October 2023 to March 2024, cholera cases were reported in all ten provinces, with seven provinces confirming outbreaks and 61 out of 116 districts experiencing local transmission. During this period, over 21,000 cases and more than 700 deaths were recorded, with the epicentre in the high-density areas of Central, Copperbelt, and Lusaka provinces. Fishing camps and districts in Central and Southern provinces, known cholera hotspots, are particularly vulnerable, especially with current below-average rainfall. While the government reduced daily reported cases by 50 per cent as of 6 March, potential water shortages from low rainfall could worsen the outbreak by forcing people to use unsafe water sources. A global shortage of oral cholera vaccines has also hindered efforts to control the disease, while the expected above-average rainfall and warmer temperatures may further increase cholera transmission in southern Africa.

Humanitarian access: Zambia's diverse landscape, including its remote areas, poses significant logistical challenges to provide humanitarian assistance. Poor infrastructure, such as inadequately maintained roads and insufficient transportation networks, hampers the timely delivery of assistance to the affected regions.

FEDERATION-WIDE APPROACH

The Emergency Appeal is part of a **Federation-wide approach**, based on the response priorities of the Operating National Society and in consultation with all Federation members contributing to the response. The approach, reflected in this Operational Strategy, will ensure linkages between all response activities (including bilateral activities and activities funded domestically) and will assist in leveraging the capacities of all members of the IFRC network in the country to maximise the collective humanitarian impact.

The Federation-wide funding requirement for this Emergency Appeal comprises all support and funding to be channelled to the ZRCS in the response to the emergency event. This includes the operating National Society's domestic fundraising ask, the fundraising ask of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the funding ask of the IFRC secretariat.

As mentioned above, there is only one partnering National Society based in Zambia, the NLRC. As part of the Federation-wide approach, an IFRC membership coordination mechanism has been set up involving the IFRC, NLRC, and ZRCS where weekly meetings are being conducted to ensure better coordination of the response. Interventions for this response will be in line with the overall ZRCS Unified Plan and will ensure that partners are involved at each stage of the implementation. All the deployed surge personnel will form part of this coordination and the IFRC will work closely with the NLRC in-country delegation and other supporting partners on a regular basis.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Vision

This EA aims to support 79,418 households (476,448 people) affected by the drought in Sinazongwe, Chikankata, Chirundu, Siavonga, and Shangombo districts in the Southern and Western provinces respectively by providing support on Food Security and Livelihoods, Health, and WASH. Additionally, the strategy will integrate community engagement and accountability/RCCE, as well as Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) across all sectors, for the overall operational timeframe of 18 months.

As mentioned above, ZRCS is also currently responding to the cholera outbreak through the Cholera response EA. This EA is focussing on other provinces besides the one for Drought response and has integrated the drought response as well. ZRCS will ensure optimisation of the human resource in the implementation of the two EAs, particularly around cross-cutting areas such as CEA, PGI, etc. The use of coordination mechanism will ensure integration of the two EAs to avoid duplication of efforts and utilisation of the available resources.

Based on the fact that this operation is a scaling-up of the current DREF, the strategy contemplates increasing the coverage from one to four districts and the target population from 160,000 to 476,448. Overall, 84 districts across the country are currently affected but due to limited financial resources, the ZRCS will, through this operation, focus its response on complementing actions already provided by the Zambian Government and its partners by supporting five districts.

Since there are multiple ongoing programmes and other emergency operations underway in some of the affected provinces, the targeting and selection criteria for this intervention have been designed to avoid overlap and duplication. Interventions covered by this Operational Strategy relate only to addressing the needs caused by the current drought. Nevertheless, where opportunities for horizontal and cross-sectoral integration arise, they will be pursued accordingly.

This Emergency Appeal is also part of a sub-regional scale-up planned by the IFRC in response to the current drought and food insecurity situation in southern Africa. It is closely aligned with the current IFRC Africa Region Hunger Crisis Regional Appeal and contributes to the IFRC's Pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative. As part of this scale-up, the IFRC is also supporting coordination with National Societies in the affected countries, and any cross-border collaboration required during the response.

The ZRCS is coordinating with the Government of Zambia through the clusters that have been activated for the response. The government, through the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) and Ministry of Social Development, has already registered the most vulnerable people in all of the affected districts. The ZRCS will work with the government structure in the targeted districts to validate the registered families before commencing any interventions such as cash transfers and livelihood support. In all of the planned interventions, the Red Cross will ensure the involvement of government stakeholders and community structures to avoid any duplication of efforts. The government has also established a 5W matrix to identify who is working where and in what areas. This is helping avoid any duplication of efforts by different partners, and the National Society has also been updating the matrix.

As per the coordination mechanism described above, this operation looks to respond to the impacts of the drought through the sectors as highlighted below:

WASH: Considering the drought that has been experienced, most water sources are drying up and accessibility to both safe and unsafe water sources is expected to deteriorate in most of the affected districts. The National Society, in the immediate and short-term, will support the affected households with WASH items such as chlorine for household water treatment, water storage containers, and soap for hygiene promotion. Additionally, support for chlorination at the point of collection will be provided by trained volunteers. Volunteers will be trained and supported to undertake door-to-door activities and use public audio systems, TV, and radio for hygiene promotion. The objective is to reach a minimum of 132,000 people with messages.

Broken boreholes in the targeted district will be rehabilitated, including the training of water management committees and linking them with local authorities for continued institutional support. The engagement of local leaders and representatives will contribute to the communications strategy regarding the impact of poor hygiene and health on the escalation of food insecurity.

Food Security and Livelihoods: The 2023/2024 drought situation has not only affected the availability of food for humans, but also livestock, which calls for immediate, short and long-term support to address food insecurity in Sinazongwe, Siavonga, Chirundu, Chikankata, and Shangombo districts. The ZRCS's immediate response will be to support affected households with cash assistance to address immediate basic needs. Cash-based assistance enables populations affected by the drought to make decisions according to their priorities, boost local markets, and costs less than other aid options. The ZRCS already has systems and experience in cash interventions through a number of operations carried out in the past four years. The ZRCS and IFRC will continue to prioritise the cash-based assistance modality as needed in the operation.

In the short-term, the ZRCS will work with the Ministry of Agriculture to support farmers with livelihoods activities, promoting food production and livelihood diversification at the household and community levels through sustainable smart agriculture practices. The objective of the response operation is to provide immediate basic needs through cash assistance and livelihoods protection which will stimulate production in the long run.

Health and Nutrition: The current drought situation is expected to have health impacts due to inadequate food availability, accessibility, stability, and utilisation in most households that will result in poor nutrition status especially among vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, children under five, and the chronically ill. This response will also focus on working with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, at all levels to identify the key health impacts and support social mobilisation efforts. Volunteers will be trained in community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) focusing on nutrition, community-based surveillance, education, and referrals of malnourished children to the health facilities. In addition, the provision of food supplements will prioritise severely malnourished children. Nutrition education activities will be conducted on an ongoing basis with volunteers through dramas, cooking demonstrations, and the promotion of backyard gardens in areas where water is available, including health promotion/hygiene promotion (MHM). The ZRCS will work closely with UN agencies such as UNICEF and WFP in addition to working with the Ministry of Health at all levels.

Community Engagement Accountability: This CEA strategy sets out the approaches to achieve the planned activities for the drought response building on the positive practices already enabling stronger community engagement while addressing the barriers and gaps enabling successes in the operations. The ZRCS has a CEA focal person who will spearhead the activities using the systems already established on community feedback. The volunteers will be trained in CEA and support the setting up of CEA systems. Community feedback will be collected through community volunteers, focus group discussions, and suggestion boxes and responses provided at community meetings. A hotline (7373) was established from two local network providers for the purpose of receiving community feedback and identifying rumours and misconceptions associated with the support provided. The hotline will be utilised in this operation. Community engagement in the response will be achieved by integrating the four approaches: community participation, open and honest communication, contextual understanding, and feedback and complaints mechanisms, to enhance community engagement and accountability across the response. This includes facilitating the participation of stakeholders and timely sharing of clear and actionable lifesaving information about response activities through community meetings and assessments. Community feedback systems will be managed and addressed by the CEA focal point person, CEA volunteers, and data management team, who will work closely with the national CEA committee. The ZRCS will ensure that CEA tools are tailored to the Zambian context and are used to collect relevant data to plan CEA approaches and activities, gather community feedback, and make sure the feedback is used to generate ownership within the affected communities.

Conducting a comprehensive community insights assessment, following the Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA) approach, is crucial to develop activities that are both relevant and effective, as well as to promote humanitarian diplomacy. By engaging directly with local communities, the IFRC and the

ZRCS can gather valuable information on the specific needs, priorities, and challenges faced by different groups, including women, children, the elderly, and PWD. This information will also be used to develop specific communications products to support resource mobilisation and humanitarian diplomacy efforts.

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI): The ZRCS intends to provide support to the affected population with consideration for PGI. The interventions, including the identification of targets for cash transfer and distribution of items, will take inclusion into account. Volunteers and staff will also be oriented in mainstreaming PGI throughout the operation. Due to the food insecurity situation, there is a strong likelihood of increased cases of protection-related issues. The National Society will, therefore, employ a dedicated focal point person to facilitate effective mainstreaming of PGI issues in the entire response operation.

Anticipated climate-related risks and adjustments in the operation:

The operation will promote climate-smart agriculture activities which will also ensure the integration of climate adaptation, resilience, and recovery, as well as CEA/PGI. The use of early maturing crop varieties will be key to mitigating the impacts of climate change. Farmers who live near perennial water bodies will be supported with irrigation activities as part of promoting food security and building their resilience. The ZRCS has developed early action protocols for drought that are currently under review, which will facilitate implementation actions in the coming season in case of prolonged drought impacts. The ZRCS has also approved flood early action protocols which will assist in disseminating early warning messages for the anticipated La Niña weather conditions that may cause flooding in the coming rainy season.

National Society Development and localised action:

By investing in the ZRCS's institutional preparedness and development, this operation aims to enhance the National Society's ability to deliver effective humanitarian assistance and increase its operational efficiency, especially at the local level and at critical moments. The National Society Development (NSD) and National Society Preparedness (NSP) frameworks will guide the capacity strengthening initiatives for the affected branches to improve response capacity, preparedness, and integrated programme delivery.

Targeting

1. People to be assisted

This Emergency Appeal targets 476,448 people (out of the 6.6 million people in need across the country) and aims to reduce the negative impacts of drought and contribute to the improvement of food security, hygiene and health behaviours, and improve the nutrition status of children under the age of five. The response will target 380,160 people with WASH, health promotions, and CEA/ RCCE/ PGI interventions, whereas, for cash and livelihoods, the target will be 132,196 people and 71,280 people, respectively. The operation will engage a total of 1,150 volunteers to support the implementation.

The response will target the entire district population with health and hygiene promotion (RCCE) messages, food security/livelihoods, and WASH interventions. The plans prioritise actions in all of the targeted districts: Sinazongwe, Shangombo, Siavonga, Chirundu, and Chikankata.

Interventions will focus on the most vulnerable among the population affected by the drought, based on specific targeting and selection criteria, and considering contextual realities resulting from the current situation. This operation will address immediate needs arising from the drought and anticipated medium-term needs, considering that the recovery process will be ongoing over the next several months. The Emergency Appeal will be integrated into the IFRC Unified Plan in 2025/2026 to ensure continuity in addressing recovery needs.

The IFRC's integrated multisectoral humanitarian intervention will prioritise:

- Households headed by women at risk (mostly widows).
- Households severely impacted by the drought.
- Underprivileged households with children with congenital heart defects.
- Households whose heads have severe mental health.

Within this, the following vulnerability criteria will be used to prioritise selection:

- Households that lost or are without their livestock.
- Household that lost their agricultural land by the recent drought.
- Households headed by widows or single mothers with young children.
- Households with chronically ill members.
- Households with a member with a disability.
- Pregnant and lactating women.
- Elderly people with responsibility for children in the household.

The criteria for targeting people will be based on government guidelines and the process will be coordinated by government ministries and departments in collaboration with the ZRCS, following laid down procedures and policies such as PGI and the code of conduct. Health and hygiene promotion activities will target the entire population in all of the targeted districts. Thorough assessments will be undertaken to ensure that the most affected communities and population areas are given priority. The Ministry of Community Development will spearhead the identification of the targeted population using the social protection registers, which will, in turn, be validated by the National Society teams in the respective communities.

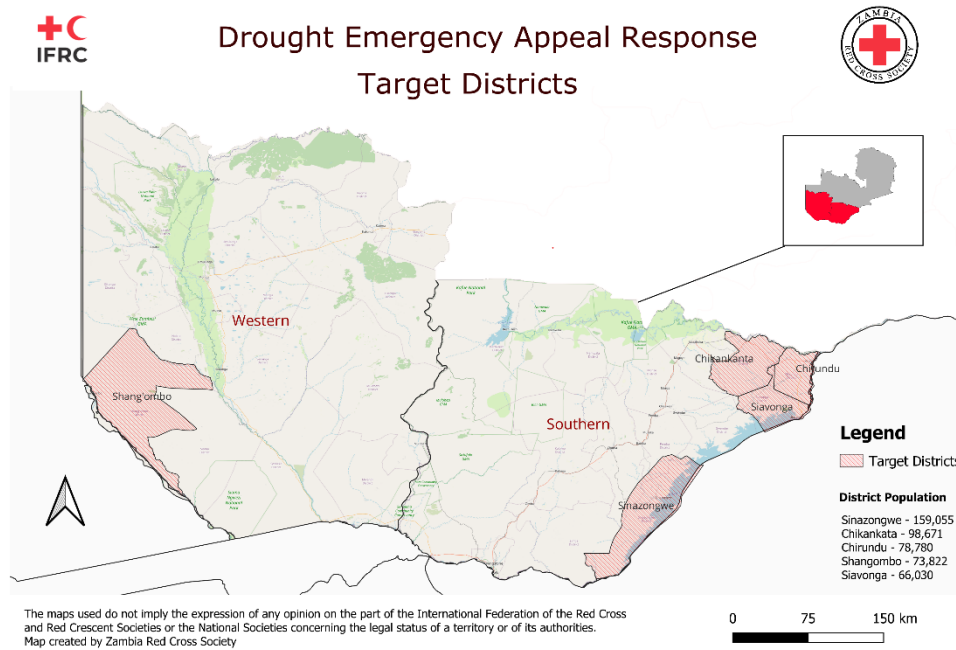
Table 1. Total and targeted population

	Countrywide	In the targeted provinces (4)	Male	Female
Total districts	116	10	9,452,843	10,240,580
Affected districts	84	5	-	-
Total population	19,693,423	476,448 (79,418 HHs)	228,695	247,753
Affected population	9,800,000	476,448 (79,418 HHs)	228,695	247,753
Population in need	6,600,000	253,735 (42,289 HHs)	121,793	131,942

Table 2. Population targeted

ZRCS Targeted population	Targeted Population	Male	Female
Cash (52%) of people in need	132,196	63,454	68,742
WASH (80%) of people affected	380,160	182,477	197,683
Livelihoods (5%) people affected	71,280	34,214	37,066
Health (80%) people affected	380,160	182,477	197,683
PGI/RCCE/CEA (80%) people affected	380,160	182,477	197,683

Locations of the response operation



2. Considerations for protection, gender, and inclusion, and community engagement and accountability

The ZRCS intends to support the selected population with consideration of PGI. The interventions will include the identification of targets for cash transfers and the distribution of items while considering inclusion issues related to sex, age, disability, disaggregated data. The volunteers and staff will also be oriented on mainstreaming PGI throughout the operation, ensuring a deliberate effort to include those that are or feel stigmatised, due to varying factors.


The response efforts will encompass a wide range of specific target groups, including but not limited to pregnant women, children, the elderly, chronically ill, PWDs, and female and child-headed households affected by this drought situation. Additionally, the response will extend to the general population, ensuring that a comprehensive and inclusive approach is adopted. By addressing the needs of various special groups and the broader community, the IFRC's goal is to provide effective support and protection during the current food insecurity crisis. This approach aims to leave no one behind and mitigate the drought's impact on all district population segments.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal, the IFRC aims to support the ZRCS in its response to the drought in the country. This is part of a sub-regional scale-up planned by the IFRC in response to the current drought and food security situation in southern Africa. It is closely aligned with the current IFRC Africa Region Hunger Crisis Appeal and contributes to the IFRC's Pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative. As part of this scale-up, the IFRC is also supporting coordination with National Societies in the affected countries and any cross-border collaboration required during the response.


The strategy for this Emergency Appeal adopts the approach defined for the Regional Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal, with a focus on the following areas:

RESPONSE PILLAR 1: FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

	Food Security and Livelihoods	Female > 18: 68,742	Female < 18:	CHF 4,316,000
		Male > 18: 63,454	Male < 18:	
Objective:	<p><i>Contribute towards helping households 'bounce back' from the shock through the provision of cash and climate-smart agriculture interventions, enabling the affected population to meet their food and livelihood needs.</i></p>			
Priority Actions:	<p>Cash assistance: The response will conduct a detailed needs and market assessment to ascertain the basic commodity needs and coping mechanisms of the affected population, and to determine the functioning of the markets. The targeted population will be supported with cash transfers through mobile money to address their immediate household needs using the government pool of social protection listings. The ZRCS will then conduct verifications of those receiving the cash assistance. While the government has determined a cash transfer value of ZMW 600 per month per household, it has yet to reconfirm this amount. The ZRCS plans to provide the cash for a period of four months.</p> <p>Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) will be conducted to understand the use and impacts of cash among the recipients. During this period, staff and volunteers will be trained on data collection and PDM processes.</p> <p><u>Key activities under cash:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of SIM cards for 22,000 HHs in all five districts. • Conduct registration and validation of 22,000 HHs. • Cash distribution to 22,000 HHs for four months at ZMW 600 per month. • Support cash distribution activities in five targeted districts. • Procurement of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) visibility materials (banners, gazebo). • Train volunteers, staff, and stakeholders on CVA and data collection in five districts. • Conduct post-distribution monitoring (four distributions in five districts). <p>Food Security and Livelihoods: The ZRCS, with support from the Ministry of Agriculture, will identify and train farmers in climate smart agriculture, drought tolerant crops, and early maturing, high-yielding varieties in areas close to main water bodies for irrigation. The identified farmers will be provided with agriculture inputs for both winter and rain-fed cropping. Training will also take place for farmers in areas such as plot layout, water management for irrigation farming activities, processing, post-harvest handling, and crop produce management. The response will support the Ministry of Agriculture in providing extension services for farmers, offering technical advice.</p> <p><u>Key activities for livelihoods:</u></p>			


- Support identification, verification, and registration of the targeted population for climate smart agriculture (per district).
- Procurement of farming inputs-winter cropping (maize seeds, fertilisers, cowpeas and insecticides in all five districts).
- Facilitate the transportation and distribution of farming inputs to all five districts,
- Training of 400 lead farmers in climate smart agriculture, including irrigation (80 per district).
- Support the roll out of climate smart agriculture activities.
- Training of 400 lead farmers in food conservation, post-harvest handling, and preservation.
- Support the roll out of food conservation, post-harvest handling, and preservation.
- Support the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in providing technical support on the climate smart agricultural activities.

RESPONSE PILLAR 2: HEALTH AND NUTRITION

	Health & Nutrition	Female > 18: 197,683	Female < 18:	Funding: CHF 257,000
		Male > 18: 182,477	Male < 18:	Total target: 380,160
Objective:		<i>Support 80% of the affected people in the five districts of Sinazongwe, Siavonga, Chirundu, Shangombo, and Chikankata with health and nutrition interventions that are useful for improved well-being.</i>		
Priority Actions:		<p>The operation will focus on providing health promotion through the work of 1,150 volunteers in CBHFA, PFA, RCCE, SGBV to promote health and nutrition. The trained volunteers will disseminate key messages to communities through door-to-door, public announcement systems, radio/TV programmes, and campaigns including IEC materials that will be reproduced and printed. Volunteers will also be trained in community-based surveillance to help with the early identification of cases of malnutrition (GMP) and diseases like AWD, who will, in turn, refer these cases to relevant facilities.</p> <p>The volunteers will conduct health promotion through dramas, cooking demonstrations, and the establishment of backyard gardens to improve household nutrition. Follow up on child nutrition will be carried out through growth monitoring, including MUAC screening and mobilisation for routine immunisation (RI) in collaboration with the MoH. The response will further procure and distribute food supplements targeting malnourished and under-five children in collaboration with the MOH.</p> <p><u>The key activities include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of 1,200 volunteers, staff, and stakeholders in CBHFA, GMP, CEA, RCCE, CBS, PFA, SGBV, hygiene promotion in emergencies, and signing of the code of conduct. 		

- Support 250 volunteers in conducting community sensitisation on nutrition through dramas (one performance by-weekly for four months).
- Support 250 volunteers in conducting community cooking demonstrations (one per month x 10 months x five districts).
- Support 1,150 volunteers in conducting health promotion, immunisation, and child nutrition screening through growth monitoring (MUAC) (three times a month for 18 months).
- Procure and distribute food supplements (plumpy nuts, HEPS) to 5% of under-five children in the targeted districts in collaboration with the MoH.
- Support the establishment of backyard gardens.
- Support commemoration of national days (Child Health Week, Breastfeeding Week, 16 days of activism against SGBV, and Immunisation campaigns).
- Conduct 30 coordination meetings (one meeting per quarter in each of the five districts).

RESPONSE PILLAR 3: WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	Female > 18: 197,683	Female < 18:	CHF 1,396,000
		Male > 18: 182,477	Male < 18:	Total target: 380,160
Objective:	<i>Promote community managed WASH services for the targeted populations to reduce health risks.</i>			
Priority Actions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The operation will focus on conducting WASH assessments to establish the gaps in the targeted districts. • The identified gaps will provide the basis for the repair/rehabilitation of 422 water points in the targeted districts. District teams have conducted mapping to check the functionality of the water points and repair needs. The ZRCS will conduct a validation exercise for the water points to identify the actual repairs needs. This operation will address those gaps in liaison with the district teams. The drilling of boreholes will also be carried out to strengthen water access and availability, together with efforts to mobilise/encourage community members to practice water conservation and harvesting technologies. The communities will be supported with liquid chlorine and water storage containers for water treatment, along with training on their use. Out of the 422 boreholes, 21 are expected to be mechanised/solarised. • The response will provide capacity building for District WASH Committees (D-WASH) at the district, and Village WASH Committees (V-WASH) at the sub-district levels. There will also be the formation and training of community water point structures to ensure institutional capacity building. 			


- To address issues of open defecation in the affected communities, community-led total sanitation will be introduced for effective sanitation measures, and communities will be provided with soap to promote hygiene practices. Volunteers will be trained on RCCE to promote hygiene practices through advocacy, communications, and social mobilisation.

The key activities will include:

- Supporting the procurement of water storage containers for 5,000 HHs.
- Training of 1,150 volunteers in BTIT or BORT.
- Facilitate the drilling of 25 water points in five districts.
- Formation and training of 25 water point committees in water point management.
- Conduct WASH assessments in targeted districts
- Training of 1,150 volunteers in hygiene promotion and water treatment.
- Rollout of hygiene promotion activities including use of water treatment products.
- Repair/rehabilitation of 422 water points in the targeted districts.
- Capacity building of District WASH committees (D-WASH) at the district level.
- Formation and orientation of water point committees.
- Training of 100 area pump menders (APMs) in operation and maintenance (O&M) mechanisms.
- Triggering HHs for community-led total sanitation (63,360 HHs).
- Procurement and distribution of 22,000 liquid chlorine and multi-purpose soap (22,000 x two/HHs x four months).
- Upgrading of 21 water points (5% of 422 WPs).
- Training and supporting 1,150 volunteers in advocacy, communications, and social mobilisation for WASH.
- Production and distribution of 66,360 HHs with IEC materials.
- Procurement of menstrual hygiene kits targeting 3,000 women and girls (10% of women of reproductive age in the five districts).

CROSS-CUTTING SECTORS

(PROTECTION, GENDER, AND INCLUSION (PGI), COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA), RISK REDUCTION, CLIMATE ADAPTATION, RESILIENCE, AND RECOVERY)

	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	Female > 18: 197,683	Female < 18:	CHF 99,000
		Male > 18: 182,477	Male < 18:	Total target: 380,160
Objective:		<i>Promote equitable access by all to quality basic services considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.</i>		

Priority Actions:

The Emergency Appeal will address PGI considerations based on the PGI Minimum Standards for each of its envisaged activities to ensure a dignified, safe, accessible, and participatory approach, including the engagement of people at risk of increased SGBV, and the inclusion of PWD and children in the response. The 1,150 volunteers and staff will be trained in PGI, SGBV, and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) as well as signing the code of conduct. The volunteers will also be involved in conducting awareness on sexual exploitation and abuse.

The National Society will continue to participate in protection cluster meetings as well as strengthening the referral pathways for GBV. The community structures such as the one stop centre, victim support unit, and school committees will be strengthened for better management of protection issues. Through the CEA, community leaders will be involved and linked with the community structures for effective reporting and management of cases and issues.

The key activities will include:

- Training of staff, partners and volunteers oriented on PSEA, GBV, PGI, the code of conduct, and child safeguarding.
- Training of volunteers on basic psychological first aid (PFA).
- Training of school committees on GBV issues.
- Orientation of local leaders to manage and address GBV issues.
- Strengthening and establishment of referral pathways, the one stop centre, and victim support units.
- Commemoration of child labour days.



Community Engagement and Accountability

Female > 18: 197,683	Female < 18:	CHF 99,000
Male > 18: 182,477	Male < 18:	Total target: 380,160

Objective:

Promote a community-centred approach and meaningful participation to address the diverse needs, priorities, and preferences of the affected population.

Priority Actions:


- Integrate CEA across the response, based on a thorough understanding of community needs, priorities, and the sociocultural context to effectively engage communities with timely, accurate, and trusted information and offer support enabling communities to be resilient.
- National Society staff, volunteers, and NDRTs will be trained on CEA to ensure that participatory approaches are the backbone of the response.
- Establish accountability mechanisms to gather community insights and feedback, including through community volunteers, community meetings, and focus groups. Feedback will also be collected during CVA, livelihood activities, and health and nutrition promotion activities. Rollout rapid operational research to understand belief systems and

sociocultural behavioural dimensions to understand and enable social actions.

- Conduct community meetings at different stages of the response to establish participatory mechanisms that allow communities and key community stakeholders to increase their ownership and leadership in the response.
- Set up help desks to share critical information and address community concerns and questions regarding ZRCS activities during the drought response, for example, during cash and seed distribution. Conduct consultative meetings to establish preferred feedback mechanisms in all affected districts where volunteers will listen to, respond, and share information on the feedback received. Promote use of the current toll-free number 7373 by registering with Airtel to offer additional services for receiving suggestions, complaints, and inquiries about the drought response from impacted communities.
- The operation will also work on gathering comprehensive community insights through assessments (following the EVCA approach). By directly engaging with local communities, the Red Cross can gather valuable information on the specific needs, priorities, and challenges faced by different groups, including women, children, the elderly, and PWD. This information will also be used to develop specific communications products to support resource mobilisation and humanitarian diplomacy efforts.

The key activities will include:


- Training of 1,200 staff, volunteers, and stakeholders in CEA and setting up complaints and feedback mechanisms.
- Conduct community and consultative meetings at different stages of the response, including the collection of feedback.
- Support volunteers in collecting feedback from communities.
- Printing of community feedback tools – printer and toner.
- Support the running costs of the toll-free number 7373 – with MTN, Airtel, and ZAMTEL.
- Support materials for setting up help desks – registers.
- Support information dissemination on the drought intervention using local radio stations, PA system, door to door, and TV.
- Procurement of visibility materials (Bibs, t-shirts, jackets, and caps) for volunteers, staff, and partners.
- Print developed messages to be distributed in all of the five districts.
- Conduct live radio programmes in the five districts, to be aired in the local languages.
- Introduction meeting in the district to introduce the project's
- Communications Manager (10% contribution).
- Communications profiling of activities in the five districts.

	Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation, and Recovery	Female > 18:	Female < 18:	16,000CHF
		Male > 18:	Male < 18:	Total target:
Objective:	<i>Communities in the drought affected areas adopt climate risk-informed and environmentally responsible values and practices, gaining enhanced resilience to the impact of the drought.</i>			

Priority Actions:

- The operation will promote climate smart agriculture activities which will also ensure the integration of climate adaptation, resilience, and recovery, as well as CEA/PGI.
- The use of early maturing crop varieties will be key to mitigating the impacts of climate change. Farmers living near perennial water bodies will be supported with irrigation activities as part of promoting food security and building their resilience.
- The ZRCS has developed early action protocols for drought that are under the review, which will facilitate the implementation of early actions in the coming season in case of prolonged impacts of the drought.
- The ZRCS has also approved flood early action protocols which will assist in disseminating early warning messages for anticipated La Niña weather conditions that may cause floods in the coming rainy season.

Enabling approaches

	<p>National Society Strengthening</p>	Female > 18:	Female < 18:	CHF 1,382,000
		Male > 18:	Male < 18:	Total target: 1,190
<p>Objective:</p>	<p><i>Strengthen the National Society's capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance to affected households.</i></p>			
<p>Priority Actions:</p>	<p>Preparedness for Effective Response (PER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ZRCS has a Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) plan of action that was recently reviewed, and a new plan of action developed for support. • Finalise the PER action plan and agree on priorities to be supported by this operation. • Reinforce the recently created ZRCS Resource Mobilisation Unit and Mobile EOC. • The National Society, through PER, has an effective resource mobilisation unit that will support in mobilising resources for this response, as well as a Mobile EOC that has been procured, just to mention a few. This will be essential for this operation's data management. Some of the prioritised actions in the revised PER plan of action will be implemented in this response. <p>Human Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Society will recruit an Operations Coordinator responsible for provision of the overall coordination and four project officers who will be responsible for all activities in the response. The response will further recruit five field officers who will work closely with the volunteers and carry out day to day activities in each of the five targeted districts. • Recruitment of the following support staff: Five drivers, one logistics officer, one PMER officer, one auditor assistant, one health promotion 			

officer, one WASH officer, one accountant, and one assistant accountant.

Volunteers and Duty of Care:


- Procurement of visibility materials such as Bibs, t-shirts, and caps for Volunteers and staff members.
- The National Society will provide insurance cover for 1,150 volunteers to ensure their safety when supporting the response.
- The ZRCS will train its volunteers in Red Cross principles, the code of conduct, duty of care, and overall coordination of the humanitarian response.

Logistics:


- Improve the regional warehouses through the procurement and repositioning of storage containers.
- Procurement of office equipment and furniture for new staff, including lockable cabinets.
- The National Society will procure two motor vehicles and five motorbikes for easy mobility to all operational areas.

Branch Development:

- Support the establishment of the Red Cross Chikankata branch.
- Renovation of branch offices.

	Coordination and Partnerships	Female > 18:	Female < 18:	273,211 CHF
		Male > 18:	Male < 18:	Total target:
Objective:	<i>Enhance coordination and partnerships among Movement and non-Movement partners to support stronger and more localised implementation approaches and effective response delivery.</i>			
Priority Actions:	<p>Membership Coordination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IFRC will ensure there is one operational plan for the drought response by working together with the Federation partners from the initial stages to the end of the operation. • The roles and responsibilities of the ZRCS, NLRC, and IFRC will be as follows throughout the operation: The IFRC will coordinate the response by making sure that every partner is involved in planning, implementation, and coordination while avoiding duplication of efforts. • The NLRC will provide resources and technical guidance to the operation. The ZRCS will lead on the complete implementation of the planned activities while liaising with the IFRC and NLRC for guidance. <p>Movement Cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ZRCS, partners, and the IFRC will coordinate with the ICRC's regional office in Pretoria. 			

	<p>Engagement with External Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ZRCS, in coordination with the IFRC and NLRC, will continue to participate in UN cluster coordination meetings (Health, WASH and RCCE, Food Security, and Livelihoods) in order to share updates and progress in the response operation. The ZRCS will also continue regular discussions and coordination with the national authorities.
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	<p>IFRC Secretariat Services</p>	Female > 18:	Female < 18:	CHF 452,000
		Male > 18:	Male < 18:	Total target: 10
<p>Objective:</p>	<p><i>Provide leadership and policy guidance to the National Society, donors, and partners on programme operations.</i></p>			
<p>Priority Actions:</p>	<p>IFRC Secretariat Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFRC will support the National Society to ensure that there is a vibrant team to spearhead its development and humanitarian agenda. The Harare Cluster Delegation provides full support across Operations Coordination, WASH, Finance, Logistics, PMER, Security, NSD, and technical sectors. Additional support will also be provided by focal points at the regional level (as needed). Through the IFRC surge system, regional and global alerts have been issued for several profiles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operations Manager WASH Coordinator PGI Coordinator Finance Coordinator <p>Risk Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In accordance with the IFRC Risk Management Framework, the operation is committed to identifying and analysing risks associated with activities and operations with the objective of maintaining a safe workplace, minimising losses, maximising opportunities, and developing appropriate risk treatment options for informed decision-making. Risks will be identified across the seven IFRC risk categories: Strategic, contextual, operational, programme delivery, fiduciary, safeguarding, and reputational. <p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the regional scale planned by the IFRC, materials will be produced with stories and community insights gathered to showcase the real impacts of this drought at the community level. These materials aim to highlight stories from the ground and to document the needs and the RCRC response as experienced by the community. This will be gathered in coordination with CEA activities as described above and the planned assessments (using the EVCA approach). 			

- Materials will also be produced to support the National Society's communications efforts at the national level.
- Printing and development of IEC materials in collaboration with the DMMU, MoH, MoA, and meteorological department. These will be translated into the local languages spoken in the specific districts.
- Radio and TV call-in programmes and radio jingles. The programmes will be aired in the common language spoken by the targeted district focusing on hygiene promotion and the uptake of climate smart agriculture technologies.
- Support to communications for media profiling and procurement of visibility materials for staff and volunteers
- Conduct engagement meetings on communications.

Security

- Mitigate security related risks through the implementation of existing IFRC MSR plans for the Harare Country Cluster. This will also include conducting area-specific security risk assessments of operational areas where IFRC personnel will be deployed.
- All IFRC and Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers must complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, e.g. Stay Safe 2.0 Global Edition Levels 1 to 3.
- Orientation in security management for all staff and volunteers who will be participating in the response.

Risk management

This operation will align itself with the IFRC Risk Management Framework where risks will be identified, analysed, monitored, and managed to minimise their associated impacts. The already developed cholera risk management register will be updated to incorporate drought response risks. The operations team for the two emergencies will be meeting every month to monitor the identified risks and discuss mitigation measures. The National Society has a dedicated Risk Management Focal person who will be chairing the risk management meetings. The integrity line will be used to collect all sensitive complaints, which will then be channelled to the independent teams by the ZRCS for resolution.

The rollout of the mitigation measures will be under the responsibility of the Secretary General in liaison with the Country Delegation Head. The table below provides a detailed risk register and their mitigation measures:

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Insufficient funding to support comprehensive drought response efforts	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Diversify resource mobilisation efforts targeting both traditional and non-traditional donors. · Substantial shortfalls in funding underscore the imperative to champion resource mobilisation targeting routine and new donors, including local partners.
Non-adherence to financial management procedures	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Orientation of staff on financial management and strengthening financial controls.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Inactivity and/or lack of capacity of local branch structures	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensify capacity building and strengthening where they are not active and establish branches where they do not exist.
Staff turnover that can result in failure to sustain delivery of humanitarian assistance	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the remuneration package which meets the current labour market value. Provided non-monetary incentives. There will be a need to recruit additional full-time staff and deploy trained volunteers to support the implementation of the operation, as well as establish a volunteer management system.
Difficulty in accessing some of the affected areas	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment and deployment of volunteers will be conducted from and within the affected communities. Develop a logistics plan (increase in motor vehicles). Use of 4x4 vehicles and motorbikes. Continue monitoring and replanning (planning ahead, pre-positioning of materials).
Rising cost of goods and services due to inflation	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budgeting in foreign currency and conducting frequent budget reviews. Frequent monitoring of fluctuations in inflation.
Failure to timely implement the activities	Medium	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proper planning, development, and monitoring of the risk management strategy.
Duplication of efforts due to limited coordination with other partners	Low	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing coordination mechanisms. Regular communications and information sharing.
Insecurity and conflict in drought affected areas	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement security protocols and security training for staff and volunteers. Staff and volunteer insurance. Area specific security risk assessments and implementation of identified mitigation measures.
The anticipated La Niña forecast for the 2024/2025 season	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring weather forecasts and projected drought conditions. Activate anticipatory action tools.
Insufficient workforce available for procurement	Medium	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire personnel to strengthen the logistics and procurement department.
Increase in SGBV leading to low participation of the affected population	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensify the community engagement approach to all interventions.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Delayed implementation of activities due to bureaucratic processes	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous engagement of state actors and community leaders. Continuous participation in coordination meetings and clusters.
Increase in the price of basic commodities due to inflation and scarcity in the markets	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budgeting in international currency and frequent budget revisions. Price monitoring to inform decision-making.
Limited network for mobile money transfer in the targeted district by the financial service provider (MTN)	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage additional financial service providers such as Airtel and ZAMTEL.

Quality and accountability

The ZRCS will emphasise quality and accountability in the implementation of this operation to ensure adherence to standard operating procedures (SOPs), IFRC implementation guides, manuals, as well as training. The following indicators will be used to monitor and track progress of the operation:

Sector	Indicator (s)	Target
WASH	# of people reached by WASH assistance	380,160
	# of new water points constructed per district	25
	# of boreholes rehabilitated or upgraded per district	422
	# of people accessing safe water from the drilled and rehabilitated water points	111,750
	# of handwashing facilities constructed by the community in the response period (Tippy Tap)	17,600
	# of HHs supported in constructing their own sanitation facilities	17,600
	# of active WASH action teams in targeted schools, health facilities, and public places	285
	# of volunteers conducting advocacy communication and social mobilisation on hygiene promotion	1,150
	# of APMs trained and equipped with operation & maintenance (O&M) tool kits (20 per district)	100
	# of households reached with effective water treatment materials, and promotion in the recovery period	63,360
	# of water points committees formed/activated	447
	# of D and V WASH committees trained/reactivation (five D-WASH=100) (447 V-WASH)	547
Health	# of people in the target communities reached with health promotion messages	380,160
	# of volunteers in the affected communities who are trained	1,150
	# of Branch Transmission Interruption Trainings (BITTs) established in the target communities	5
	# of volunteers trained in CBHFA, RCCE, and CBS	1,150
	% of children reached for growth and nutrition monitoring	900
	# of backyard gardens established and supported with farm inputs	900
	# of cooking demonstrations conducted (monthly basis)	18
CEA/RCCE	# of community meetings to discuss issues related to CEA/PGI/RCCE	20
	# of staff and volunteers trained on CEA	1,150

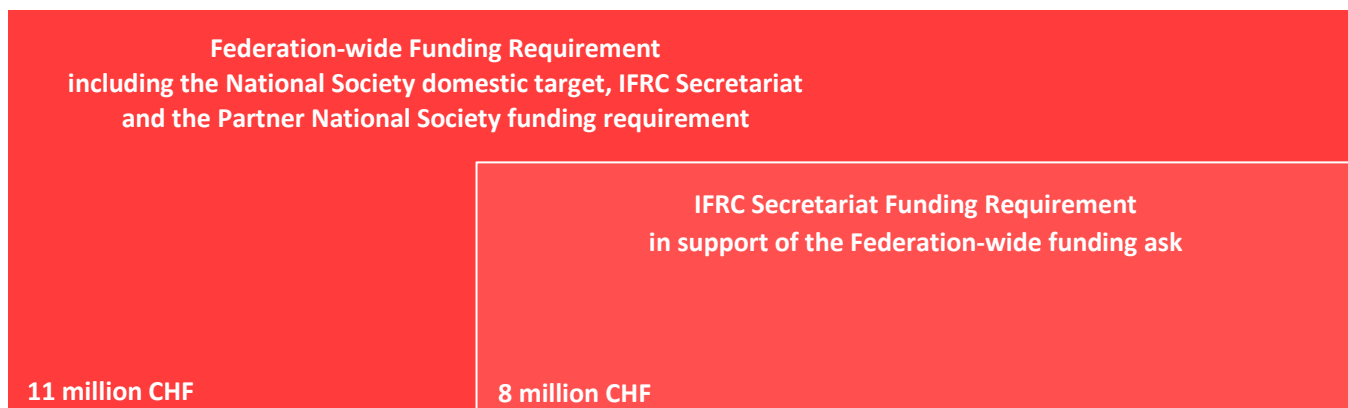
Sector	Indicator (s)	Target
	# of response activities integrating CEA approaches in their activities	0
	% of people surveyed who feel their opinion is taken into account in decisions about services, programmes, and operations	80%
	# of help desks set up in communities	20
	# of methods established to communicate with communities about what is happening in the organisation/programme/operation, including selection criteria if these are being used.	3
	% of individuals who trust the authorities and Red Cross Red Crescent leading the response	100
CASH	% of households who report being able to meet the basic needs of their households	90
	# of households that successfully received cash	22,000
	# of volunteers, partners, and staff trained on CVA	1,200
	# of market assessments conducted	2
	# of new FSPs procured	2
	# of staff and volunteers using PDM data collection tools	1,200
	# of post-distribution monitoring conducted during the response	4
Coordination & Partnerships	# of PDM reports produced	4
	# of Movement and non-Movement partners supporting the ZRCS in the response	10
	# of regular coordination meetings conducted involving partners (monthly)	24
	# of assessments (baseline, midterm, and endline evaluations) conducted	3
	# of assessment reports submitted including data quality	4
	# of monitoring visits including data quality audits on the response	8
Food Security & Livelihood	# of international forums and meetings participated in	5
	# of households reached with farm inputs	11,800
	# of farmers trained in smart agriculture technologies	11,800
	# of households trained on post-harvest handling, processing, and management	11,800
	# of households trained in plot layout and water management under irrigation activities	11,800
	# of farmers trained in food preservation	11,800
NSD	# of monitoring visits conducted involving the MoA to provide extension services	15
	# of volunteers recruited	1,150
	# of volunteers insured	1,158
	# of Branch Offices renovated	2
	# of Branch leadership oriented on the RCRC Movement and ZRCS policies and guidelines	50
	# of staff and volunteers trained in BOCA	200
PGI/PSEA/GBV	# of regional warehouses supported for stock prepositioning	3
	# of staff, partners, and volunteers oriented on PSEA, GBV, PGI, the code of conduct, and child safeguarding	1,200
	# of volunteers trained on basic psychological first aid (PFA)	100
	# of volunteers and staff that have signed the code of conduct	1,200
	# of GBV cases recorded and resolved (30 per district)	150
# of referral pathways established (one per district)	5	

The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) strategy for this response will adopt a systematic approach to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and outcomes of the interventions. A baseline survey will be conducted for key sectors such as health, WASH, and livelihoods. Monitoring will involve regular data collection to track both progress and performance through surveys, reports, and technology such as GIS. There will be a post-distribution monitoring survey carried out after each cash/material distribution to gauge the effectiveness of the items/cash distributed. The evaluation will focus on assessing the outcomes and sustainability of the interventions, providing ongoing feedback through formative evaluations, and measuring the overall impact through summative evaluations.

A key area in quality and accountability will be the implementation of safeguarding measures, particularly for PSEA and child safeguarding. Actions to meet these requirements will include establishing robust screening, briefing, and reporting systems, and ensuring community feedback mechanisms along with child-friendly information and participation.

Key principles of the M&E approach will include inclusiveness, transparency, flexibility, and a strong focus on sustainability. The PMER system will ensure timely, targeted, and effective aid delivery, enhance learning and adaptation through lessons learned, and ultimately aim to improve food security and community resilience against future droughts.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT



**For more information on Federation-Wide funding requirement, refer to section: Federation-wide Approach*

Breakdown of the IFRC secretariat funding requirement

	<h3>OPERATIONAL STRATEGY</h3> <p>MDRZM022 - Zambia Red Cross Society Drought Emergency Operation</p>	
	<p>FUNDING REQUIREMENTS</p>	
Planned Operations		6'167'000
PO01	Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
PO02	Livelihoods	1'411'000
PO03	Multi-purpose Cash	2'905'000
PO04	Health	257'000
PO05	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	1'396'000
PO06	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	99'000
PO07	Education	0
PO08	Migration	0
PO09	Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
PO10	Community Engagement and Accountability	99'000
PO11	Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches		1'834'000
EA01	Coordination and Partnerships	0
EA02	Secretariat Services	452'000
EA03	National Society Strengthening	1'382'000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS		8'001'000
<p><i>all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)</i></p>		

Contact information

For further information, please contact:

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For In-kind Donations and Mobilisation Table Support:

- **IFRC Africa Regional Office for Logistics Unit:** Allan Kilaka Masavah, Head, Global Humanitarian Services & Supply Chain Management, Africa; email: allan.masavah@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability Support (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting enquiries)

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Reference



Click here for:

- [MDRZM022 Emergency Appeal](#)