



# ZAMBIA

2025 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec



9 July 2026

## IN SUPPORT OF THE ZAMBIA RED CROSS SOCIETY



**65**

National Society branches



**68**

National Society local units



**114**

National Society staff



**8,455**

National Society volunteers

## PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency Operations



**72,305**

Climate and environment



**303,081**

Disasters and crises



**61,930**

Migration and displacement



**9,000**

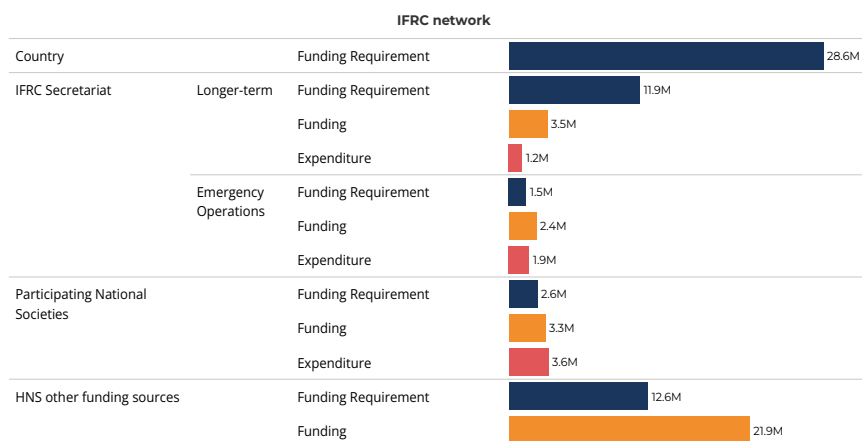
Values, power and inclusion



**14,171**

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*




Appeal number **MAAZM002**

\*Information on data scope and limitations is available on the back page

## ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

### MDRZM023/ Mpox Response

Accountability and agility	National Society is implementing a digital transformation roadmap in line with the IFRC strategy	Yes
	National Society has strengthened its integrity and reputational risk mechanism	Yes
	National Society has a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors	Yes
	National Society has a functioning data management system that informs decision making and supports monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of its actions	Yes
Health and wellbeing	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate health services	 1.5M
Humanitarian diplomacy	National Society participates in IFRC-led campaigns	Yes
	National Society has a domestic advocacy strategy developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
Migration and displacement	National Society has undertaken any data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move	Yes
	National Society has undertaken any advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move	Yes
National Society development	There is a National Society Development plan in place	Yes
	National Society has developed and/or implemented a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role	Yes
	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of its volunteers	Yes
Strategic and operational coordination	Number of government-led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1

	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
Values, power and inclusion	Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	5,000
	Percentage of those surveyed report receiving useful and actionable information	90%

## ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

### MDRZM022/ Drought Response

Climate and environment	Number of people reached with activities to address rising climate risks	72,000
	National Society implements nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)	Yes
Disasters and crises	Number of people reached with livelihoods support	62,000
	Number of people reached with emergency response and early recovery programmes	62,000
	Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction	25,000
	Percentage of assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	95%
Values, power and inclusion	Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	14,000
	Percentage of those surveyed report receiving useful and actionable information	90%

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	National Society has received IFRC Network's support to adapt to longer-term impacts of climate change	Yes
	Number of people reached with activities to address environmental problems	303,000
	Number of people reached with activities to address rising climate risks	72,000
Disasters and crises	Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction	25,000
	Number of people reached with emergency response and early recovery programmes	62,000
	Number of people reached with livelihoods support	62,000
	Number of people reached with shelter support	792
	Percentage of assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	100%
Health and wellbeing	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate health services	2.5M
	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	1.5M
Migration and displacement	National Society has undertaken any advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move	Yes

	National Society has undertaken any data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move	Yes
	Number of migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	9,000
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	National Society has a Community Engagement and Accountability policy, strategy or plan	Yes
	Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	14,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society's educational programmes	540
	Number of people whose access to education is facilitated through National Society's programming	2,000
	Percentage of those surveyed report receiving useful and actionable information	100%

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Accountability and agility	National Society has a functioning data management system that informs decision making and supports monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of its actions	Yes
	National Society has a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors	Yes
	National Society has strengthened its integrity and reputational risk mechanism	Yes
	National Society is implementing a digital transformation roadmap in line with the IFRC strategy	Yes
Humanitarian diplomacy	National Society has a domestic advocacy strategy developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
	National Society participates in IFRC-led campaigns	Yes
National Society development	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of its volunteers	Yes
	National Society has developed and/or implemented a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role	Yes
	There is a National Society Development plan in place	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK BILATERAL-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
American Red Cross	95,000			●			
Netherlands Red Cross	3.2M	●	●	●		●	
Turkish Red Crescent	42,000						

Total Funding Reported **CHF 3.3M**

# Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

## Context

Zambia continued to grapple with a severe drought that affected more than 9.8 million people, with the Southern and Western provinces bearing the heaviest burden. Rural communities were the most impacted, experiencing displacement and widespread food insecurity. The crisis disproportionately affected women and children, with over 202,000 individuals displaced due to drought and related climate shocks.

The cholera outbreak in Zambia reached its peak in late January 2025, with a sharp increase in cases and deaths, particularly on the Copperbelt province affecting Chililabombwe, Chingola, Kitwe and Ndola. According to a situational report by Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) dated 13th May 2025, the country recorded a total of 496 confirmed cases and 9 deaths.

Alongside these crises, the resurgence of Mpox heightened the risk of public health emergencies, stretching already limited response capacities.

## Key achievements

### Climate and environment

In 2025, the Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened climate-smart agriculture and environmental resilience by equipping communities with skills in sustainable food production, conservation agriculture and food preservation. The National Society supported smallholder farmers in Choma, Kalabo and Sinazongwe districts through the provision of agricultural inputs and community sensitization on climate-smart practices and livelihood diversification, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and through drought response initiatives. It also advanced environmental restoration through tree planting in schools in Kapiri and Mposhi Districts, promoting ecosystem recovery and community awareness. National-level discussions further supported the development of innovative and sustainable food security and livelihoods approaches tailored to the national context.

### Disasters and crises

Between January and December 2025, the Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened disaster management and preparedness to enhance readiness, response and recovery. The National Society expanded infrastructure for pre-positioning relief items and improved coordination through emergency operations systems and support to national disaster management structures. The Zambia Red Cross Society implemented response actions in drought and other emergencies, strengthening access to safe water, promoting climate-smart agriculture and delivering hygiene and essential relief services. The National Society also responded to floods, fires and other emergencies through shelter support, volunteer deployment and community-based interventions and strengthened anticipatory action through contingency planning, Early Action Protocols, capacity building and climate risk reduction measures.

### Health and wellbeing

The Zambia Red Cross Society responded to a cholera outbreak in Zambia by utilizing the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) mechanism. It made efforts to strengthen epidemic response, community health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services across affected districts. The National Society supported Community-based Surveillance, contact tracing and health education during Mpox outbreaks and provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to affected populations. The Zambia Red Cross Society also promoted reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services through community engagement and strengthened immunization through outreach and behaviour change communication. It implemented integrated water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions, including infrastructure development, hygiene promotion and environmental safeguards. Additionally, the National Society strengthened collaboration with partners through WASH initiatives.

### Migration and displacement

In 2025, the Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened its response to human mobility and displacement through surge operations and support in refugee settlements. The National Society strengthened protection through Psychological First Aid, referral services and maternal health support for displaced persons. The National Society also strengthened

coordination with stakeholders and advanced preparedness for future interventions, reinforcing integrated support systems for people on the move and displaced communities.

### **Values, power and inclusion**

During the reporting period, the Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) to ensure active participation of communities in humanitarian action. The National Society integrated CEA across programmes, strengthened institutional frameworks and coordination structures and improved feedback mechanisms through digital systems and accessible communication channels. Additionally, the Zambia Red Cross Society reinforced accountability to affected populations by promoting inclusive engagement, transparent communication and community-centred approaches across its interventions.

### **Enabling local actors**

For the period from January to December 2025, the Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened its institutional capacity to enhance sustainability and alignment with the Movement. The National Society implemented its strategic plan, focusing on disaster risk reduction, climate action, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), [youth engagement](#) and organizational development. It strengthened governance through a constitutional review and improved engagement with government authorities. The National Society prioritized branch development through capacity building, improved governance system and support for local resource generation. Additionally, it strengthened financial sustainability through resource mobilization, partnerships and income-generating initiatives, supported by improved financial systems and investments in infrastructure.

The Zambia Red Cross Society also strengthened volunteer management through structured programmes, training and leadership development. It also strengthened digital humanitarian services, [Restoring Family Links](#) and [anticipatory action](#) approaches to support people affected by crises. It strengthened human resource management through [safeguarding](#), staff development, gender equality and inclusion and also reinforced integrity, accountability and security systems. Additionally, it improved procurement practices, strengthened data management and ensured value for money in programme delivery. As part of [digital transformation](#), it rolled out a structured data and digital literacy curriculum designed to build practical skills progressively across the National Society in geographic information systems and Power BI for selected staff, under the 510 data and digital initiative of the Netherlands Red Cross.

## **Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS**

*In this reporting period, no changes or amendments were made by the National Society.*

# Q3. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

1.

<b>Emergency Appeal Name</b>	Zambia Drought Response
<b>Emergency Appeal number</b>	<a href="#">MDRZM022</a>
<b>People Affected</b>	6.6 million
<b>People assisted</b>	476,448
<b>Duration</b>	18 months (22 March 2024 to 30 September 2025)
<b>Funding requirements</b>	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 8 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 11 million
<b>Link to Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Zambia Drought Response</a>
<b>Link to Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Latest Operations Update</b>	<a href="#">Operational Update No. 4</a>

Zambia has experienced prolonged drought and erratic rainfall, especially in the southern, western, eastern and central provinces. The El Niño effect during the 2024–2025 season led to failed harvests, dried-up water sources and reduced food production.

The drought has affected eight provinces, with the most severe impacts in Southern, Central, Eastern, North-Western, Western and Lusaka Provinces. An estimated 9.8 million people have been adversely affected, of whom 6.6 million require urgent humanitarian assistance. The crisis has led to widespread crop failure, drying of water sources, loss of livestock pasture and rising food prices, with small-scale farmers and rain-fed-dependent households being the most affected.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The Zambia Red Cross Society with support from the IFRC is implementing a Drought Emergency Appeal in Sinazongwe and Chikankata districts. The operation aims to reduce the negative impacts of the drought and improve food security, health, nutrition and access to safe water, while promoting climate-smart agriculture and resilience-building. Key interventions include cash and voucher assistance, distribution of agricultural inputs, health and nutrition services, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities and cross-cutting measures in community engagement, accountability, protection, gender and inclusion.

The following assistance was provided by the Zambia Red Cross Society:

#### Livelihood

Farmers were supported with assorted agricultural inputs. Training given to lead farmers in climate-smart agriculture and water use management, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and district authorities. Activities included monitoring land preparation, validating input needs and conducting crop growth assessments to strengthen resilience and improve food production in drought-prone areas.

#### Multi-purpose Cash

Multipurpose cash assistance provided in targeted districts, enabling households to meet their most urgent needs such as food, healthcare, rent and other essentials. This flexible approach empowered recipients to make choices based on their individual priorities, promoting dignity and improving overall well-being during a time of crisis.

## Health and care

Provided nutrition support in drought-affected areas through community-based education sessions promoting healthy feeding practices and dietary diversity. Volunteers conducted door-to-door screenings to identify malnourished children, who were then supported with appropriate nutritional supplements or referred to health facilities. Growth monitoring and awareness campaigns reached households with key health messages, while radio programs helped dispel myths around immunization. Capacity building efforts equipped volunteers with skills in health communication, surveillance, protection and psychosocial support, strengthening community trust and resilience.

## Water, sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Improved access to safe water and sanitation in drought-affected areas by drilling and rehabilitating boreholes, equipping them with solar systems and constructing waterborne toilets. Working with local authorities, it trained waterpoint committees and area pump menders to ensure sustainable operation and maintenance. WASH items were procured and distributed and crop field monitoring was conducted to support water-efficient farming practices.

## Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

Engaged traditional and community leaders to address harmful norms and reduce gender-based violence. Volunteers were trained in PGI, psychological first aid and safeguarding, enabling them to identify and refer protection cases and support affected individuals. The National Society also established referral pathways, distributed awareness materials and conducted focus group discussions to understand community needs and coping mechanisms. Coordination with stakeholders and participation in protection networks further enhanced inclusive response planning and community resilience.

## Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Consultative meetings and help desks at cash distribution points allowed communities to share concerns and suggestions, leading to improvements such as borehole rehabilitation, inclusion of groundnut seeds and targeted nutrition support. Volunteers were trained in Community Engagement and Accountability to collect and analyze feedback, while preferred communication channels such as toll-free lines, door-to-door visits and radio programs ensured two-way communication.

## 2.

<b>Emergency Appeal Name</b>	Africa Regional Mpox Epidemic
<b>Emergency Appeal number</b>	<a href="#">MDRS1003</a>
<b>People affected/at risk</b>	300 million
<b>People to be assisted</b>	30 million
<b>Duration</b>	21 months (20 August 2024 to 30 June 2026)
<b>Funding requirements</b>	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 30 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 40 million
<b>Link to Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Africa – Regional Mpox Epidemic</a>
<b>Link to Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Latest Operations Update</b>	<a href="#">Operational Update No.5</a>

In 2024, Mpox cases and deaths surged significantly in Africa, with over 17,000 cases and 500 deaths reported across 12 countries, marking a sharp increase from 2023. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains the epicentre, contributing 92 per cent of cases, with transmission spreading across all its provinces and into neighbouring Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya. Non-endemic countries such as South Africa have also reported cases, while endemic regions, including Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire, continue to see expanding outbreaks. The emergence of Clades 1a, 1b and 2 in disparate areas highlights the heightened risk, prompting organizations such as the Africa CDC, WHO and the IFRC to declare the outbreak a public emergency. Red Cross Red Crescent Societies are working closely with governments to provide community-based surveillance, risk communication and community engagement and vaccination support to mitigate the spread and reduce mortality.

In October 2024, a confirmed Mpox case in Chitambo District highlighted the effectiveness of frontline health workers in early detection and response. In coordination with IFRC, the Zambia Red Cross Society launched targeted interventions in high-risk districts to strengthen surveillance, risk communication and community engagement. Despite the initial funding ending in June 2025, the response has been extended, though the National Society awaits formal confirmation of further funding support.

### **Short description of the emergency operational strategy**

During the early stages of the Mpox outbreak, the Zambia Red Cross Society concentrated its response efforts in districts located near border posts and major transit towns, given their higher risk of disease spread. Priority was given to districts that had already recorded confirmed cases, where trained volunteers conducted door-to-door sensitization campaigns to raise community awareness, promote preventive practices and reduce misinformation.

The Zambia Red Cross Society reached over two million people through door-to-door sensitization, community meetings, radio programs, public announcements and distribution of IEC materials. These efforts helped raise awareness on Mpox symptoms, transmission and prevention. The National Society also trained healthcare workers and community-based volunteers to strengthen case detection, reporting, surveillance and risk communication, while facilitating discussions to address concerns and encourage community-led action.

The following assistance was planned:

#### **Health & Care**

Mobilized trained volunteers to strengthen epidemic preparedness, grassroots surveillance and health promotion, reaching over a million people through public outreach. Despite progress, challenges in community-based surveillance and limited distribution of protective materials highlighted gaps. Feedback from communities guided improvements, including targeted nutrition support and water access. Moving forward, enhancing surveillance workflows, expanding household-level interventions and improving feedback mechanisms remain key priorities.

#### **Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)**

Capacity building for volunteers was conducted in Kalumbila district, out of the six affected districts in the copper-belt and north-western provinces. A total number of 300 volunteers were trained in protection, gender and inclusion.

#### **Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)**

Inclusive focus group discussions and community meetings were conducted in Sinazongwe District, engaging diverse groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, lactating mothers and local leaders from community structures.

For the period from 22 August 2024 to 31 December 2025, the following assistance was provided by the Zambia Red Cross Society:

The Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened community preparedness and response to Mpox through extensive volunteer mobilization, Community-based Surveillance and risk communication. Integrated interventions combined household outreach, health promotion, psychosocial support, hygiene promotion and inclusive engagement to address stigma, improve early detection and encourage timely care. Capacity strengthening of frontline health workers and sustained coordination mechanisms reinforced surveillance and case management, while community feedback systems and multi-channel communication enhanced trust, countered misinformation and ensured responsive, community-centred action.



## Climate and environment

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Zambia Red Cross Society implemented a range of initiatives focused on climate-smart agriculture and environmental resilience, in line with its strategic objective to take urgent and proactive measures against the escalating risks of climate change and environmental degradation.

The National Society focused on equipping communities with the knowledge, skills and resources needed to adapt to climate-induced disasters, including training lead farmers and community members in sustainable food production, conservation agriculture, post-harvest handling and food preservation. To enhance productivity and resilience, the Zambia Red Cross Society procured and distributed key agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, maize, ground nuts and vegetable seeds. This initiative benefitted smallholder farmers across Choma, Kalabo and Sinazongwe Districts. Community sensitization meetings were in Choma and Sinazongwe to raise awareness about climate-smart agriculture and small livestock projects, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to improve drought resilience and diversify livelihoods. The National Society also advances in projects such as the Acute Crisis project as well as the Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) project, to respond to drought crisis in Zambia.

Additionally, the Zambia Red Cross Society also addressed environmental restoration through a large-scale tree-planting campaign. On January 27, 2025, fruit and non-fruit trees were planted across five schools in Kapiri and Mposhi Districts, 300 trees per school, alongside the provision of gardening tools such as wheelbarrows and hoes. This initiative aims to combat climate change, restore ecosystems and provide nutritional benefits while fostering environmental stewardship among school children.

Informed by the outcomes of the Southern Africa Regional Food Security and Livelihoods Portfolio Solutions Workshop of 2024 and a subsequent follow-up meeting in Zimbabwe, which served as a platform for peer learning and experience sharing, the National Society also convened national-level meetings to deliberate on food security and livelihoods (ESL) innovation plans tailored for the Zambian context. The integration of innovative and sustainable livelihoods solutions that address the root causes of food insecurity and enhance long-term community resilience.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical and financial support to the National Society for the implementation of climate-smart agriculture interventions. The IFRC also supported the Zambia Red Cross Society through its emergency appeal mechanism in responding to drought in Zambia.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** provided support to the National Society in responding to drought through the Acute Crisis Project

The **Japanese Red Cross Society** provided financial support to the National Society for the fourth phase of its Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) project.



### Progress by the National Society against objectives

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

Between January and December 2025, the Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened disaster management and preparedness through coordinated actions to enhance institutional readiness, response and recovery capacities. The National Society expanded infrastructure for pre-positioning relief items through the establishment of warehouses and storage facilities and strengthened coordination mechanisms through orientation on emergency operations systems and support to national disaster management structures. It improved stock monitoring systems and conducted Branch Organizational Capacity Assessments ([BOCA](#)) and exchange initiatives to strengthen branch-level coordination and learning.

The Zambia Red Cross Society implemented response and recovery actions across drought-affected and emergency-affected areas, strengthening access to safe water through rehabilitation and management of water sources and promoting climate-smart agriculture and child health monitoring. The National Society strengthened water management systems through community structures and technical training and implemented hygiene promotion and menstrual health interventions. It responded to floods, fires and other emergencies through shelter support, distribution of relief items, camp management training and deployment of volunteers, while strengthening community resilience and access to essential services.

The Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened disaster preparedness and [anticipatory action](#) through contingency planning, pre-positioning of supplies and capacity development of disaster management structures and volunteers. It also strengthened early action systems through the development and implementation of Early Action Protocols for drought and floods. The National Society strengthened preparedness across sectors through training in climate-smart agriculture, water quality, protection and community engagement and enhanced systems for anticipatory action, cash assistance and inclusive programming. Additionally, the Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened community-based risk reduction, climate adaptation and feedback mechanisms to support timely and accountable responses.

### IFRC network joint support

**The IFRC** provided technical and financial assistance to the Zambia Red Cross Society for emergency response mechanisms. IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([DREF](#)) and the IFRC Emergency Appeal were utilized by the National Society to effectively support those who face immediate needs during times of emergency.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** provided technical assistance to the National Society for its disaster management and preparedness efforts.



The Zambia Red Cross Society distributing menstrual hygiene materials in Chikankata district (Photo: Zambia Red Cross Society)



## Health and wellbeing

In 2025, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) was utilized for a cholera epidemic in Zambia.

<b>Name of Operation</b>	Zambia Cholera Response
<b>MDR-Code</b>	<a href="#">MDRZM024</a>
<b>People targeted</b>	1,917,978 people
<b>Duration</b>	5 months (03 March 2025 to 31 August 2025)
<b>Funding allocation</b>	CHF 275,765
<b>DREF Operation Link</b>	<a href="#">DREF operation</a>
<b>DREF Operation Update</b>	<a href="#">DREF Final Report</a>

The [IFRC-DREF](#) allocation of CHF 275,765 in March 2025 supported the Zambia Red Cross Society in aiding 1,543,751 people affected by the cholera outbreak in Central, Copperbelt and Northern regions of Zambia. The National Society supported the targeted people over a five-month period with interventions such as risk communication messaging, social mobilization, awareness raising as well as the establishment of oral rehydration points. Affected communities are also being provided with hygiene materials, handwashing stations as well as chlorine bottles.

## Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Zambia Red Cross Society responded to the Mpox epidemic in Kalumbila, Chililabombwe, Chingola, Mufulira, Kitwe and Ndola, where exposure risk was heightened due to trade and migration corridors. The National Society applied Community-based Surveillance to enable early detection and reporting of suspected cases, complemented by health education campaigns that raised awareness on prevention measures, symptom recognition and the importance of early treatment. Contact tracing was carried out in coordination with district health teams to identify and monitor exposed individuals. Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services were also provided to affected individuals and families to address stigma and related mental health needs.

Through the Community-Based Health and Resilience project in Lusangazi, the Zambia Red Cross Society promoted the uptake of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health services, including family planning, antenatal care, facility-based deliveries and postnatal care. Community sensitization activities increased awareness of maternal health and encouraged the use of health facilities for childbirth. To support access, the National Society established a maternity annex and a mothers' shelter, providing safe delivery spaces particularly for women from remote areas.

The National Society strengthened immunization systems in Kabwe and Mansa through door-to-door campaigns that identified under-immunized and unvaccinated children. Under the Saving Lives and Livelihoods project, it developed Social and Behaviour Change Communication materials in collaboration with the Ministry of Health to promote routine immunization. These included posters, brochures, leaflets, radio scripts, key message guides and frequently asked questions. Consultative meetings with government stakeholders, partner organizations and technical experts supported the design, review and contextualization of these materials in alignment with national immunization priorities.

Under the Orphans and Vulnerable Children intervention, the Zambia Red Cross Society identified children from Lukanda, Matilyo, Mulungushi, Kapiri Day and Mulonga primary schools, who were trained in smart agriculture, sustainable farming practices and water, sanitation and hygiene. In parallel, the National Society implemented a Solarization WASH project in Kapiri-Mposhi district to improve access to safe, reliable and climate-resilient water and sanitation services. The project combined infrastructure development with community-based capacity strengthening, including the construction of sanitation facilities in selected schools and health centres. A key milestone was the mechanization of a borehole at Palamedes Combined School, which improved water access for the surrounding community and marked the transition from planning to implementation. Environmental compliance was confirmed through a NEAT+ assessment. Capacity strengthening included BORT training and the establishment and training of school hygiene clubs, alongside stakeholder engagement focused on WASH infrastructure mapping and the use of digital water testing tools to support data-driven planning and sustainability.

In addition, the Zambia Red Cross Society partnered with UNICEF to implement a sanitation and hygiene promotion project under its rural WASH programme running until 2027. Needs assessments were conducted across the target districts, followed by inception meetings with Provincial and District Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education structures and traditional leaders to support coordinated implementation.

## IFRC network joint support

**The IFRC** supported the Zambia Red Cross Society in strengthening its health and wellbeing interventions, enabling it to respond to public health emergencies while reinforcing routine health services in high-risk areas. This effort was further supported by the **Japanese Red Cross Society** and the **Netherlands Red Cross**.



## Migration and displacement

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

During 2025, the Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened its response to human mobility and displacement through surge operations in Lusaka and the Copperbelt, supporting populations received in Mantapala settlement. The National Society provided communication services to displaced families to maintain contact and access to information across settlements.

The Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened digital communication initiatives by implementing campaigns to promote the use of humanitarian digital platforms and expanding access to secure document storage and connectivity services.

It complemented digital services with physical support to enable continued access to communication tools for affected migrant populations.

The Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened protection and psychosocial support by providing Psychological First Aid and facilitating referrals for displaced persons requiring specialized services. It also strengthened maternal health services for displaced populations through the provision of equipped health facilities supported by sustainable energy and water systems.

The National Society strengthened coordination and preparedness for humanitarian response through engagement in coordination platforms and collaboration with national and international stakeholders. It also advanced preparations for mine action interventions through project development for clearance of explosive hazards.

The Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened its overall migration and refugee response by providing integrated services to displaced populations and reinforcing systems for communication, protection and coordination across operational areas.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC provided support to the National Society in assisting refugees and migrants with challenges faced by them.



## **Values, power and inclusion**

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### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

Between January and December 2025, the Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened the institutionalization of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) across its operations, ensuring active community participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of humanitarian interventions.

The Zambia Red Cross Society developed institutional frameworks to guide CEA, including a strategy, policy, standard operating procedures for feedback and complaints handling and terms of reference for coordination committees. It strengthened coordination mechanisms at headquarters and branch levels through the establishment and reinforcement of committees to ensure timely and effective action on community feedback.

The Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened digital feedback management systems through collaboration aimed at improving feedback collection, real-time data analysis and data-driven decision-making. Accessibility of feedback mechanisms was also expanded by strengthening toll-free communication channels and advancing plans to centralize feedback management systems to enhance responsiveness and efficiency.

Additionally, the Zambia Red Cross Society made efforts to strengthen accountability to affected populations through improved communication channels, inclusive engagement approaches and continuous efforts to ensure transparent and community-centred programming across its interventions.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC supported the Zambia Red Cross Society in strengthening Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) across its programmes through technical and financial assistance as well as capacity building. This was further supported by the **Netherlands Red Cross**.

# ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

### IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

Several participating National Societies provide support in the region including the **Italian Red Cross**, the **Japanese Red Cross Society** and the **Netherlands Red Cross**.

### Movement coordination

The Zambia Red Cross Society collaborates closely with the IFRC, ICRC and the Netherlands Red Cross, ensuring an aligned approach across the Movement in support of its priorities. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) principles and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

**The ICRC** does not have a presence in Zambia and provides support through its regional delegation in Zimbabwe. Using innovative tools, ICRC aims to address the humanitarian consequences of armed violence and migration; to support authorities to trace missing persons, to reconnect separated families; to strengthen respect for and compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and international standards of policing; and to support the National Society in improving its capacity to be the first responder to disasters.

### External coordination

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

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

The Zambia Red Cross Society is actively engaged in the *Early Warning for All (EW4ALL)* initiative, a global effort led by the United Nations aimed at ensuring that every person is protected by life-saving early warning systems by 2027. As part of this commitment, the Zambia Red Cross Society has participated in four coordination meetings with the Commissioner for Refugees (CoR), UNHCR, the Ministry of Home Affairs, MCDSS and other partners and stakeholders to strengthen collaborative efforts in humanitarian response and preparedness.

The Zambia Red Cross Society is a key member of the Zambia Humanitarian Country Team, which prioritizes humanitarian response by maximizing impact through sectoral, operational and localized approaches. This includes addressing critical gaps, enhancing community resilience and aligning with long-term life-saving goals. The organization also plays a vital role across various sectors such as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Cash and Voucher Assistance and Risk Communication and Community Engagement contributing to a coordinated and effective humanitarian strategy across the country.



## National Society development

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the period from January to December 2025, the Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened its institutional capacity and systems to enhance relevance, sustainability and alignment with the principles and priorities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The National Society implemented its strategic plan, focusing on disaster risk reduction, climate action, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), youth engagement and organizational development.

The Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened governance and organizational structures through a comprehensive constitutional review process, promoting inclusive participation and alignment with national frameworks and Movement standards. It prioritized branch development through capacity building, provision of equipment and improvement of governance systems, enhancing accountability, volunteer mobilization and local resource generation.

The Zambia Red Cross Society also strengthened financial sustainability through the development of resource mobilization strategies, partnerships with the private sector and the promotion of income-generating initiatives at branch level. It enhanced financial systems and reporting through training and improved accounting processes, while advancing investments in institutional assets, property management and infrastructure to support long-term sustainability and operational capacity.

The Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened internal systems and operational efficiency through improvements in digital volunteer management, finance and procurement processes and reporting systems. It advanced the development of management information systems to support data-driven decision-making and strengthened governance capacities through leadership training, improved oversight and consistent governance processes. Additionally, the National Society strengthened volunteer management through improved registration, protection policies and recognition initiatives, while expanding youth engagement through structured programming, leadership development and support to youth-led initiatives and community-based activities.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided support to the Zambia Red Cross Society in strengthening governance, leadership and institutional. It also supported the National Society, along with the **Netherlands Red Cross** in strengthening financial sustainability, institutional development and operational systems.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened digital humanitarian services through the Red Safe platform to support people affected by conflict, migration and other humanitarian crises. The National Society expanded access to secure communication and digital document storage, enabling individuals on the move and displaced populations to safely manage information and maintain connectivity, while strengthening institutional capacity to scale digital humanitarian support.

The National Society also advanced its communications, strengthened engagement with stakeholders to build confidence in early action approaches and promoted resource mobilization efforts to enhance investment in anticipatory action.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Zambia Red Cross Society in strengthening the promotion of anticipatory approaches.



### Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2025, the Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened human resource management to promote a secure, inclusive and development-oriented workplace aligned with its humanitarian values. The National Society prioritized safeguarding, staff safety and security, gender equality and inclusion. It advanced the development of safeguarding frameworks and strengthened prevention and response mechanisms to protect staff and communities from harm, abuse and exploitation, while promoting training and awareness to ensure adherence to standards and a zero-tolerance approach to misconduct.

The Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened staff safety through implementation of occupational health and safety measures, risk assessments and safety protocols in challenging operational environments. It reinforced mental health support systems, emergency preparedness measures and staff protection mechanisms. It also strengthened gender equality and inclusion through implementation of equitable policies, transparent recruitment processes and fair remuneration systems. The National Society promoted equal access to professional development, flexible working arrangements and protection against discrimination, while advancing efforts to address gender imbalances and foster an inclusive organizational culture.

The Zambia Red Cross Society strengthened integrity and accountability through the implementation of policies, code of conduct and oversight mechanisms to promote transparency, ethical behaviour and responsible governance. It reinforced reporting and investigation systems for misconduct, strengthened internal audit and risk management functions and promoted ethical standards across all levels of the organization. The Zambia Red Cross Society also strengthened security management through risk assessments, development of security systems and measures to protect physical and digital assets, while promoting staff awareness and training on safety and information security.

Additionally, the National Society advanced digital transformation by upgrading information technology infrastructure, strengthening data management systems and improving connectivity across branches, enhancing evidence-based decision-making and operational effectiveness. It rolled out a structured data and digital literacy curriculum designed to build practical skills progressively across the National Society in geographic information systems and Power BI for selected staff.

### IFRC network joint support

**The IFRC** supported the Zambia Red Cross Society in the development of safeguarding frameworks and response mechanisms to protect staff and communities from harm, abuse and exploitation. It also supported the National Society in digital transformation.

Through its 510 data and digital initiative, the **Netherlands Red Cross** supported the Zambia Red Cross Society in developing and rolling out a structured data and digital literacy curriculum for staff. The curriculum was designed to build practical skills progressively across the National Society and included a training-of-trainers in geographic information systems and Power BI for selected staff, who then rolled out the training to colleagues at headquarters and across districts. For some participants, the training served as preparation for the IFRC regional geographic information systems training held in 2025.

## **Q4. AFFECTED PERSONS (PEOPLE REACHED)**

*See cover pages*

## **Q5. PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR AFFECTED PEOPLE – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

*See Strategic Priority on 'Values, power and inclusion' under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION*

## **Q6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

*This information is not available in Annual Reports*

## **Q7. EXIT STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY**

*See Strategic Priorities or Enabling Local Actors, where relevant under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION*

## **Q8. LESSONS LEARNED**

- The Zambia Red Cross Society identified that its Unified Plan improved coordination across departments, strengthening information flow and enhancing the delivery of interventions. However, gaps remained in regular coordination among key stakeholders, highlighting the need to reinforce coordination mechanisms, joint planning and shared accountability.
- It also strengthened data collection and information management processes, although misalignment between some indicators and project- or donor-specific requirements created challenges in harmonization. This underscored the importance of developing standardized yet flexible monitoring, evaluation and learning tools to meet diverse information needs while reducing reporting burdens.

## SUCCESS STORIES



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### **Zambia Red Cross Society strengthens financial sustainability through strategic reforms and investments**

The National Society has strengthened its financial sustainability by investing in business development, income generation, resource mobilization and digital transformation. With support from partners such as IFRC and the Netherlands Red Cross, the National Society secured ownership documentation for its properties, expanded income-generating activities and invested in long-term assets including warehouses and real estate. Leadership played a key role by reviewing the Constitution and adopting governance policies such as the Board Charter, Membership Policy and Youth By-laws. These reforms have enhanced accountability, stability and operational efficiency, positioning the Zambia Red Cross Society as a more relevant and trusted humanitarian partner with a stronger financial and institutional foundation to serve vulnerable communities.

# ANNEX 1. IFRC APPLICATION OF THE 8+3 REPORTING TEMPLATE

The IFRC network structures its result-based management along five Strategic priorities and four Enabling functions, developed based on the IFRC network's [Strategy 2030](#):

IFRC network Strategic Priorities	IFRC network Enabling Functions
SP 1 - Climate and environment	EF 1- Strategic and operational coordination
SP 2 - Disasters and crises	EF 2 - National Society development
SP 3 - Health and wellbeing	EF 3 - Humanitarian diplomacy
SP 4 - Migration and displacement	EF 4 - Accountability and agility
SP 5 - Values, power and inclusion	

The Federation-wide results matrix provides a standard way for the IFRC network to measure its progress towards Strategy 2030 implementation and supports consistent quality of the IFRC network planning, monitoring and reporting. To further advance coherence in monitoring across the IFRC network, a [Federation-wide Indicator Bank](#) has been developed and integrated into the Federation-wide monitoring systems for emergencies and longer-term work, structured along the Federation-wide results matrix as well. Signatory of the Grand Bargain Agreement, the IFRC has committed to its monitoring and reporting standards through integration of the [8+3 reporting template](#) contents into its results-based management approach. The following mapping demonstrate the way in which this report aligns with 8+3 reporting:

8+3 template	IFRC network Annual Report (with variance in structure in red)
<b>Core Questions</b>	
1. Overall Performance	Overall Performance
2. Changes and Amendments	Changes and amendments
3. Measuring Results	Measuring Results
4. Affected Persons	Cover pages with indicators values
5. Participation & AAP	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 5: Values, power and inclusion – Community Engagement and Accountability
6. Risk management	Risk management
7. Exit Strategy and Sustainability	Under Q3 sub-sections by Strategic Priority/Enabling Function where relevant
8. Lessons Learned	Lessons learned
<b>Additional Questions</b>	
1. Value for Money/ Cost Effectiveness	Not included in annual reports
2. Visibility	Not included in annual reports
3. Coordination	Under Q3 Enabling Function 1: Strategic and operational coordination
4. Implementing Partners	Cross-cutting, with a focus on support to localization through the Q3 Enabling Functions 1 to 4
5. Activities or Steps Towards implementation	Cross-cutting in Q3 Strategic Priorities and Enabling Functions
6. Environment	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 1: Climate and environment



## The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

### DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2025. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies.
- **Financial overview:** This overview consolidates data reported by the National Society and its IFRC network partners, as well as data extracted from IFRC's financial systems. All reported figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities. The financial data with a grey background is solely reported by the National Society, including the funding sources. Financial reporting is often times estimated depending on availability of financial figures, closing of financial periods, and may be incomplete. 'Not reported' could sometimes mean 'not applicable'. Also note that funding requirements are already reflected in the published 2025 IFRC network country plan. The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network has sought to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities.
  - » Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System
  - » Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
  - » IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.
- **Definitions:**
  - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
  - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [ZM\\_Zambia AR Financials.pdf](#) (Note: For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see [MDRZM022](#), [MDRS1003](#), and [MDRZM024](#))
- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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