

OPERATION UPDATE

Zambia | Drought

Emergency appeal N°: MDRZM022 Emergency appeal launched: 22/03/2024. Operational Strategy published: 23/07/2024	Glide N°: DR-2024-000018-ZMB
Operation update: 12 months update Date of issue: 11/06/2025	Timeframe covered by this update: From 22/03/2024 to 31/03/2025
Operation timeframe: 22/03/2024 - 30/09/2025	Number of people being assisted: 380,160
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 8 million through the IFRC Secretariat Emergency Appeal CHF 11 million Federation-wide	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 900,000



Climate Smart Agriculture support beneficiary, Ministry of Agriculture and ZRCS during crop performance monitoring visit in Sinazongwe district, Zambia

To date, this Emergency Appeal, which seeks CHF 8,000,000, is 20 per cent funded. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the National Societies in the region, with the support of the IFRC, to continue with the preparedness efforts of and provide humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

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 assessment ¹ was commissioned by the Agriculture and Food Security Cluster and the National Government Drought. Response Appeal indicated that 6.6 million people needed 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, Southern, Central, and Northwestern Provinces. According to the rapid assessment report, the top three provinces with more than 1.3 million people in need were Western, Southern, and North-Western. The report also highlights that many households were 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 most 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.

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, 89 out of 116 districts in the country have been affected by this crisis. An estimated 5.8 million people (33 percent of the analyzed population) were forecasted to likely experience heightened hunger between October 2024 and March 2025. The IPC projected that nearly 5.6 million people will likely experience IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 236,000 people IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Seven additional districts were projected to move from IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) to Phase 3 – corresponding to 89 hotspot districts in Zambia. To prevent this dire situation, urgent lifesaving and livelihood assistance is imperative.

The country continues to recover from a cholera outbreak that began in October 2023, with over 24,000 reported cases. The decreased access to water has also led to outbreaks of diarrhea 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. The target 10 districts under Cholera Appeal were as follows: Lusaka, Chongwe, Chilanga, Kafue, Kabwe, Mumbwa, Ndola, Kitwe, Chipata and Chirundu. 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.

The situation is dire, as most of the districts affected did not harvest any yields due to lost crops; therefore, with the loss of crops and livestock, nutrition and survival are getting to a frightening level. With limited resources to respond to the 6.6 million affected population and increasing vulnerability, the current government and humanitarian efforts to respond are almost insignificant; therefore, there is a need for more support. Partners and governments are spread out across the 8 most affected provinces, i.e., districts, in the 89 out of 117 districts in response to the compounding impacts of the drought in Zambia. The IFRC, in support of the ZRCS, launched an emergency appeal of CHF 11 million (Federation-wide), to scale-up its operation initially funded by the DREF. To date, a total of 1,925,794 CHF has been mobilized where interventions have started being implemented in two districts of

¹ 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><https://reliefweb.int/report/zambia/wfp-zambia-drought-response-april-2024>

Sinazongwe and Chikankata out of the 5 planned Districts.

In summary, the following are some of the achievements made so far by Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS), with the federation wide and bilateral support from NLRC and Czech Republic:

- Conducted consultation/ engagement meetings and briefed Sinazongwe and Chikankata district authorities on the drought response operation. The authorities included the District Commissioner, Social Welfare, Community Development, Agriculture and MTN as Finance Service Provider (FSP).
- Carried out mapping of Wards and wetlands for support of smart agriculture activities including field validation exercise to appreciate the wetlands where the beneficiaries planted winter crops.
- In collaboration with the district authorities, the team monitored activities such as land preparations and moisture/water availability in selected areas for winter cropping and supported winter cropping to 532 farmers.
- Through the Camp Agriculture Officers and Community Development, 32 lead farmers were identified in 8 wards of Sinazongwe District for smart agriculture training.
- With technical support from the Camp Agricultural Officers based in the field, 32 Lead farmers were trained in climate smart agriculture to help support fellow farmers in their respective locations.
- Continued coordination with other actors through participation in cluster meetings such as WASH, Health, Food security, Cash. Humanitarian Team Coordination meetings as well as internal movement coordination meetings.
- With technical support from with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS) conducted consultation and engagement meetings with key district authorities in Sinazongwe. This initiative included briefings with the District Commissioner, as well as representatives from Social Welfare, Community Development, Agriculture, and MTN, the Finance Service Provider (FSP).
- A total of 56 lead farmers underwent training in water use management to enhance their capacity to manage available water resources effectively, particularly as the region approaches the hotter months of October to December.
- Ongoing monitoring of crop fields revealed a strong stand of maize, cowpeas, and okra, eliciting positive feedback from the community regarding the support provided by the Red Cross. Camp Officers and lead farmers were tasked with further training local farmers to reinforce these initiatives.
- As part of the continuous process to support farmers with capacity building, ZRCS supported the Ministry of Agriculture to train lead farmers with the training on, post-harvest handling and food preservation in Sinazongwe District.
- Conducted the mapping of wetlands to verify if the beneficiaries had access to the wetland, a total of 8 wards were identified and mapped for support.

Weather Forecast and its impact for the next three months

The Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD) indicates that the current neutral phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is expected to transition to a weak La Niña phase during the 2024/2025 rainfall season, that is October 2024 to March 2025. This weak La Niña, characterized by below-normal sea surface temperatures in the tropical eastern Pacific, typically results in normal rainfall patterns across Zambia. The forecast for the 2024/2025 rainfall season includes normal rainfall for most regions, with potential episodes of heavy rainfall and flooding in flood-prone areas. The onset of rains is anticipated in October for parts of Western Province and the northern areas of Luapula and Northwestern Provinces, while most regions will likely see rain by the end of November. However, a delayed onset is expected in the extreme northeastern districts, such as Luangwa and Chirundu, possibly until

mid-December. The rains are expected to cease in March 2025 for the southern half of the country, with parts of Eastern Province and the northern areas of Luapula and Northern Provinces seeing cessation by the end of April.

The anticipated weather patterns for the 2024/2025 rainy season in Zambia, influenced by a weak La Niña phase, could have significant impacts on agriculture and livelihoods. Normal rainfall is expected to benefit crop yields, but heavy rainfall and flooding in susceptible areas may damage crops and disrupt communities. Delayed onset of rains in the extreme northeastern and southern regions could hinder timely planting, while early cessation of rains in March may negatively affect late-season crops, leading to food shortages and exacerbating malnutrition among vulnerable populations. Increased rainfall also raises the risk of waterborne diseases and can strain local health systems. Overall, while some areas may experience beneficial rainfall, the associated risks necessitate proactive measures for disaster preparedness to protect livelihoods and health.

The operation will keep monitoring the forecast and adjust the plans accordingly.

Summary of response

ZRCS, mandated to act in emergency with its network of 60 branches, 66 staff and 7,857 volunteers with coverage countrywide and active offices in 60 out of 116 districts. The National Society acted promptly and activated the weekly emergence response coordination mechanism (Incident Management System, IMS) that discusses the response to this crisis. Currently, ZRCS has one Participating National Society (PNS) present in the country, the Netherland RC, jointly implementing ECHO PPP program and IFRC supporting the coordination.

Overview of the host National Society and ongoing response

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

- Emergency appeal was launched for ZRCS to support vulnerable households with emergency relief through multi-purpose cash grants, livelihood support through smart agriculture initiatives, nutrition education and promotion of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). The activities have started being implemented in Sinazongwe and Chikankata Districts
- ZRCS is part of Agriculture, Food Security and Livelihood cluster, Cash working group, WASH and HTC activated by the Government through its Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU).
- ZRCS's internal movement coordination mechanism is meeting weekly to discuss the response to this crisis.
- ZRCS participated in rapid assessment coordinated by the Government through the Zambia Food Security Cluster.
- In Gwembe and Siavonga districts, ZRCS has successfully conducted beneficiary registration and validation to a total of 5000 households who are supposed to receive cash amounting to k600 per month for 3months.
- In Sinazongwe District, ZRCS has successfully provided both cash assistance and farming inputs for smart agriculture. Meanwhile, in Chikankata, stakeholder consultative and engagement meetings have been initiated to facilitate the effective implementation of project activities
- ZRCS distributed cash to a total of 4,966 Households in Sinazongwe District.
- A successful launch of the mobile cash assistance program was witnessed by the District Commissioner, ZRCS President, IFRC country team and other dignitaries. Out of 5,232 households, 4,577 (87%) were validated and registered for cash assistance. Payments were successfully disbursed to **4,478 households** (86%), each receiving K400. Despite MTN's (FSP) initiative for offline registration, challenges in the activation speed of SIM cards have hindered the efficiency of the cash delivery program.
- Following the joint **market assessment** conducted by the **World Food Program (WFP)** and the government through Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit, the **cash transfer value** was increased from **k400 to**

k600 to meet the immediate needs of the affected population. ZRCS conducted the second cash distribution and out of **5232 households, 4966 households (96%)** received the second payment.

- ZRCS distributed cash to **2,000 households** in IPC4 in Sioma district for three months as part of emergency response under the ECHO Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) project.
- Additionally, With support from ECHO PPP, ZRCS distributed cash of K600 per household to a total of 4994 household in Chikankata district.
- ZRCS has extended the drought response to Gwembe and Siavonga with support from the (Netherlands Red Cross NLRC, supporting 5000 households for both districts. A total of 1000 households have received farming inputs under climate smart agriculture. With technical support from the Camp Agricultural Officers based in the field, **56 Lead farmers** were trained in climate smart agriculture to help support fellow farmers in their respective locations, each lead farmer was assigned **20 farmers** who were then trained in climate smart agriculture. Working with the district authorities, team monitored activities such as land preparations, moisture/water availability and validated the prioritized farm inputs by the beneficiaries and Camp Officers from the government. The NS is planning to roll out similar interventions in Chikankata District in the coming month.
- Distributed farming inputs to 1075 households of which 575 were for Sinazongwe and 500 households for Chikankata District
- ZRCS, with financial support from IFRC and technical support from Ministry of Agriculture, trained 50 lead farmers on climate smart agriculture and water use management who in turn trained the other 500 farmers on the same. A total of **500 beneficiaries** were supported with a comprehensive farming input package in Chikankata District which included the following:

Item	Qty
Fertilizer (Compound D and Urea)	2 * 50 kg
Pesticide	250 ml
Okra seeds	One sachet
Maize seeds	5kg
Cowpeas	5kg
Groundnuts	5kg
For every twenty beneficiaries, one lead farmer received a 16-liter sprayer for communal use	

- ZRCS with support from Ministry of Agriculture has continued to monitor the crop performance of the distributed crops in Chikankata District.
- ZRCS has extended the drought response to Gwembe and Siavonga with support from the (Netherlands Red Cross NLRC, supporting 5000 households for both districts. A total of 1000 households have received farming inputs under climate smart agriculture.

The ZRCS and IFRC have invested in strengthening Community, Engagement Accountability (CEA) capacity as part of the drought response. The feedback database is being used to record and analyze 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, social media platforms, and responses provided through community meetings. The available CEA structure is being 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.

- Through the CEA team ZRCS collected feedback and set up a community feedback mechanism and continued to collect insights through community meetings in Sinazongwe District and **112 volunteers** were trained in CEA. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) was integrated into all sectors of the response in Sinazongwe and Chikankata Districts, promoting greater community participation and strengthening communication between affected families and response teams. A total of 186 volunteers were trained in CEA approaches, equipping them with essential skills to facilitate meaningful engagement, collect feedback, and respond effectively to affected families.
- **Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approaches** were integrated into **five (5) response** activities enhancing community participation, transparency, and responsiveness. These activities included: -
 - **Cash distribution** – Ensuring equitable and transparent distribution of financial assistance, while actively involving communities in the process,
 - **Cash validation** – Verifying eligible recipients to maintain fairness and address any concerns from the community,
 - **Farming input distribution** – Incorporating community feedback to prioritize and distribute essential farming inputs like seeds, ensuring relevance to the local needs,
 - **Volunteer training in health** – Building the capacity of volunteers to engage effectively with communities, supporting health initiatives and improving service delivery and
 - **Community meetings** – Creating spaces for open dialogue, where community members could provide feedback, raise concerns, and participate in decision-making.
- To enhance accountability and community participation, **47 consultative feedback meetings** were conducted in the two districts, reaching **6,474 people — comprising 172 men and 2408 women**. These meetings provided a platform for community members to voice their concerns, share insights, and contribute to shaping response interventions. Additionally, **52 help desks were strategically established at cash distribution** points to offer real-time assistance, address grievances, and ensure timely resolution of emerging issues.
- To improve information dissemination and promote transparency, ZRCS established **four (4) trusted and preferred communication channels: help desks, community meetings, the toll-free line (7373), and door-to-door engagements**. These channels facilitated two-way communication, allowing communities not only to receive information but also to provide valuable feedback on the effectiveness of interventions.
- A total of **1,195 feedback entries** were collected through established channels, including **1,025 from door-to-door interactions and 170 via the toll-free line**. The feedback directly influenced key response decisions, including the addition of groundnut seeds (Chikankata) to the farming input list at the request of affected families, recognizing its nutritional value for children and targeted distribution of PlumpyNut to address child malnutrition, responding to direct requests from affected families. Additionally, borehole rehabilitation was prioritized based on community requests (Muchekwa, Siameja, Mwenda) to address water shortages. The feedback collected was also shared internally across all response sectors, ensuring that key stakeholders had access to community insights to inform decision-making. This process enabled different sectors to analyze trends, identify priority needs, and adjust interventions accordingly. As a result, response activities were more targeted, effective, and responsive to the actual concerns raised by affected communities.
- Water supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Education were identified as critical in addressing the challenges of water-borne, water-related and water-washed diseases especially given the scarcity of water supply in the prevailing drought situation. In mitigating these challenges, **ZRCS procured 40 complete**

boreholes kits for the purpose of rehabilitating 40 boreholes across the 8 District in Sinazongwe District. After the successful delivery of parts ZRCS immediately undertook the rehabilitation of **40 boreholes the rehabilitation process was preceded by the training of 40 APMs**, mobilization and orientation of **40 water point committees** in operation and maintenance of water points. The total number of people benefitting from this intervention is **15 518**. Similar activities are planned for in Chikankata District.

- Based on the identified gaps in the needs assessment, **111 volunteers** were trained in RCCE, CEA, PGI, PFA, CBS and GMP.
- **1223 malnourished children** under five were identified using the **MUAC** through the door-to-door activities by volunteers.
- Procurement of **100 by 25kg of High Energy Protein Supplements** to support the identified malnourished children especially with Mild and Acute Malnutrition. A total of 1800 children with Mild and 200 with Acute were identified and put under care by Ministry of Health
- Procured **15000 sachets of Therapeutic malnourished children with Severe Acute Malnutrition**
- Conducted **one radio program** to sensitize communities in Sinazongwe on importance of taking children for GMP and immunization.
- The response through the volunteers has reached **45003 households with key messages** on prevention of diseases and child health.
- A total of **75 volunteers** were successfully trained in **PGI, SGBV (Sexual and Gender-based Violence), and the Code of Conduct** in Chikankata district during the period under review. The Volunteers were trained to conduct community sensitization on protection issues, including GBV, child marriage, and how to identify the specific needs of vulnerable groups during drought response. By raising awareness, volunteers help build community support systems and promote collective responsibility for protecting the vulnerable.
- **Two (2) stakeholders'** coordination meetings were successfully held in Sinazongwe and Chikankata districts, with a total of **22 stakeholders** in attendance from various government line ministries.
- Through the PGI unit ZRCS in collaboration with Chikankata **gender sub-committee conducted community sensitization** meeting during the **16 days of activism against gender-based violence under the theme towards Beijing 30+ unite to end violence against women and girls.**

Needs analysis

The drought has not only affected the availability of food for humans but also livestock. 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 grappling with.

The NS conducted a baseline survey in Chikankata and Sinazongwe districts highlighting several challenges.

- A significant **58% of respondents lack access to weather forecast information**, which affects their ability to conduct anticipatory and early actions.
- Poor nutrition for children under five is also a major concern, **with 80% of respondents unable to provide a balanced diet.**
- Key Informant interviews indicate that both districts have experience with cash distribution through Social Cash Transfer and Emergency Cash Transfer. The impacts of drought have forced community members to resort to selling livestock, reducing household dairy consumption, removing children from school, engaging in piece work, and migrating to other areas.

- **77% of respondents have access to health services for regular check-ups and vaccinations** for children under five years while **23% do not have access**.
- **66%** have access to **toilet facilities** while **34%** do not have access.
- The findings indicated that children, the disabled, and aged people were the most affected or represented groups, while categories like lactating mothers and the mentally diseased are the least affected
- The majority of the respondents (63%) indicated that both wives and husbands are involved in decision-making with regard to the use of cash. This was followed by 17% of households where the wife alone makes such decisions.

Addressing these challenges will require a multi-faceted approach that includes strengthening health promotion activities, improving access to essential services such as healthcare especially for under five children, pregnant and lactating women, enhancing communication and promoting sustainable agricultural practices through trainings. Additionally, supporting vulnerable populations, particularly children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, is key in building resilient communities. Implementation of project activities must mainstream protection gender and inclusion.

The survey highlights the need for comprehensive strategies to improve community preparedness in Chikankata and Sinazongwe districts. The ongoing food shortage, water scarcity, crop failure, livestock and income loss among community members in the two districts, along with the gaps in access to health services and hygiene facilities, highlight the need for targeted interventions that provide both short and long-term solutions.

The NS is integrating the interventions for a comprehensive response to the drought.

More details on deed analysis can be found operations [6 Month Ops Update](#).

Operational risk assessment

This operation has aligned itself with the IFRC Risk Management Framework where risks are identified, analyzed, monitored, and managed to minimize their associated impacts. The already developed cholera risk management register has incorporated drought response risks. The operations team for the two emergencies meet every month to monitor the identified risks and discuss mitigation measures. The National Society dedicated Risk Management Focal person is chairing the risk management meetings where IFRC cluster and regional risk management focal persons are also invited. The integrity line is being used to collect all sensitive complaints, which are channeled to the independent teams by the ZRCS for resolution. No sensitive feedback has been received so far since the inception of the response.

The rollout of the mitigation measures is the responsibility of the Secretary General in liaison with the IFRC Harare Country Delegation Head. The following are some of the risks discussed and agreed on by mitigation measures in the reporting period:

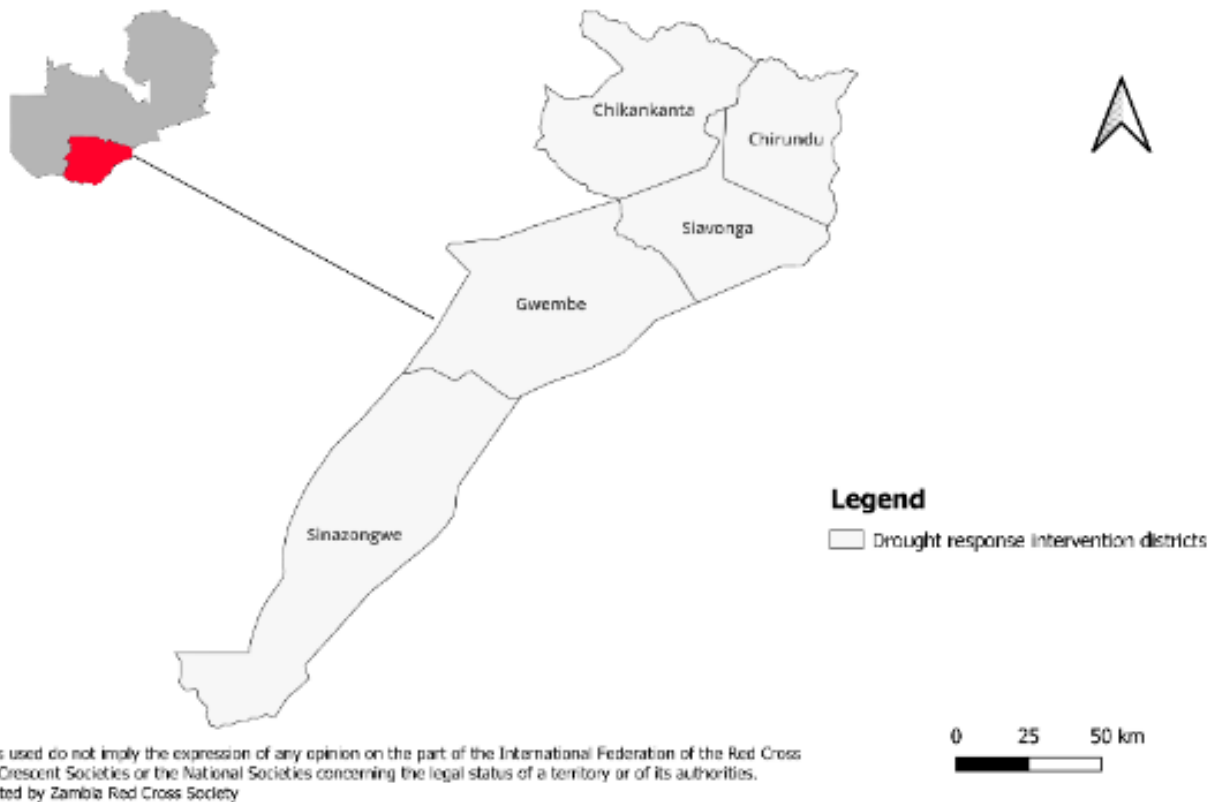
- Delayed cash transfer to affected population due to limited network by financial service provider for mobile money transfer – The ZRCS with IFRC support broadened the number of FSP from one-to-four Government bureaucracies – this was seen through the delay in agreeing on the cash transfer value for the drought response as well as the allocation of operational sites by the Government to partners. This contributed to the delay in starting cash transfer program.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy

The Operations Strategy was scaled up from the DREF to an emergency appeal, increasing the coverage from one to five districts and the target population from 160,000 to 380,160 which is 80% of the 476,448(79,418 %) affected (Zambia Drought response strategy 2024). Overall, 84 districts across the country are currently affected but due to limited financial resources, the ZRCS is, focusing its response on complementing actions already provided by the Zambian Government and its partners by supporting five districts of Sinazongwe, Chikankata, Chirundu, Siavonga, and Gwembe with Food Security and Livelihoods, Health, and WASH. Additionally, the strategy has integrated community engagement and accountability/RCCE, as well as Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) across all sectors, for the reported period. Due to the limited funds generated by the appeal so far, ZRCS have prioritized interventions in **Sinazongwe and Chikankata** districts out of the five appeal districts.

Drought Response Intervention Districts



The map above shows the ZRCS targeted districts

The drought emergency response strategy has short, mid- and long-term recovery activities to ensure affected families are resilient. The National Society has implemented most of the short term and currently facilitating mid to long terms activities, some of these include climate smart agriculture under livelihoods pillar, nutrition screening and supplementary feeding for malnourished children under health and nutrition and rehabilitation and upgrading of water boreholes under WASH.

Through this operations update, the Emergency Appeal is to be extended for another three months, up to 30 September in order to complete the activities below:

Thematic Area	Remaining Activities
Health and Care	• Training 50 volunteers on CBS RCCE, PFA and GMP in Chikankata District. • Training of volunteers and staff in PGI in Sinazongwe District. • Training of volunteers in health promotion in Chikankata District. • Conduct community radio programs and sensitization in Chikankata.
Water and Sanitation Hygiene	• Procure borehole rehabilitation kits for 20 boreholes in Chikankata District. • Train area pump menders in Chikankata District. • Formation of water point committee in Chikankata District. • Rehabilitation of 20 boreholes in Chikankata District. • Train volunteers on hygiene promotion and community led total sanitation (CLTS). • Upgrade of 5 identified boreholes in Sinazongwe District. • Procurement and distribution of liquid chlorine and multi-purpose soap in Chikankata and Sinazongwe Districts. • Procurement and distribution of menstrual hygiene kits.
Livelihoods and Basic Needs	• Conduct post distribution monitoring in Chikankata District. • Conduct crop growth monitoring in Chikankata District. • Train farmers on water use management. • Train farmers on food preservation and post-harvest handling. • Support Ministry of Agriculture with extension services.
Multipurpose Cash	• Conduct the third and fourth cash distribution in Sinazongwe and Chikankata Districts. • Conduct post distribution monitoring in Sinazongwe and Chikankata Districts. • Conduct end term review for Sinazongwe and Chikankata District. • Conduct lessons learnt workshop.
Community Engagement and Accountability	• Conduct community consultative meetings in Sinazongwe and Chikankata District.
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	• Train Volunteers in PGI in Sinazongwe District. • Establish referral pathways in Sinazongwe and Chikankata District. • Orientation of local leaders in Sinazongwe district.
National Society Strengthening	• Conduct BOCA training in Sinazongwe and Chikankata District.
Coordination and Partnerships	• Conduct senior management monitoring visit in Sinazongwe and Chikankata Districts. • Upcoming IFRC Operational and Technical Monitoring visits. • Joint monitoring and Supervision from Relevant stakeholders including the government.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

The following is an analysis of key interventions conducted by ZRCS in the targeted Districts. Communities are being supported in different sectors with the aim of mitigating the impacts of the drought. To ensure community involvement and engagement, the CEA plays a role in this. The following is the detailed operational plan with key achievements made through this Emergency Appeal and covering 5 most affected districts in Zambia. The intervention includes livelihoods with multi-purpose cash, climate-smart agriculture, WASH, Health and Care interventions.

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

RESPONSE PILLAR 1: FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

	Food Security and Livelihoods	Female > 18: 2,769	Female < 18: 299
		Male > 18: 276	Female < 18: 299
Objective:	<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>		
Key Indicators:		Targets	Actual
# of households reached with farm inputs		1,300	575
# of farmers trained in smart agriculture technologies		1,300	575
# of households trained on post-harvest handling, processing, and management		1,300	575
# of households trained in plot layout and water management under irrigation activities		1,300	575
# of farmers trained in food preservation		1,300	0
# of monitoring visits conducted involving the MoA to provide extension services		15	1
Priority Actions			
- Procured and distributed assorted farm inputs (5kgs maize seeds, 2 bags of fertilizers, 5kg cowpeas, 250ML Okra, 1 Liter of insecticides and sprayers) done. A total of 575 farmers received the farm inputs in January 2025 and started planting and training in Smart agriculture. - ZRCS, with technical support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Community Development, conducted training for the lead farmers on climate smart agriculture technologies prior to the actual distribution of the farm inputs. A total of 56 lead farmers trained as TOTs who will roll out to all the 778 lead farmers. ZRCS is planning to expand its interventions to Chikankata District. - Working with the district authorities, the team monitored activities such as land preparations, moisture/water availability and validated the prioritized farm inputs by the beneficiaries and Camp Officers from the government. 56 lead farmers were trained in water use management to help farmers to manage the available water well, as low water table reduces moving into hotter months of October to December. - Conducted crop growth monitoring to appreciate the crop field stand on maize, cowpeas and okra. During these visits the Ministry of Agriculture provided extension services and disseminated weather information.			
Remaining Activities			
The remaining activities will be based on actual operational budget and actual incomes received in the appeal. - Conduct post distribution monitoring in Chikankata District. - Conduct crop growth monitoring in Chikankata District. - Train farmers on water use management. - Train farmers on food preservation and post-harvest handling. - Support Ministry of Agriculture with Extension Services.			

	Multi-Purpose Cash	Female > 18: 1142	Female < 18: 1142
		Male > 18: 1097	male < 18: 1097

Objective:	<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>
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Key Indicators:	Targets	Actual
% of households who report being able to meet the basic needs of their households	90	80
# of households that successfully received cash	5,232	4,478
# of volunteers, partners, and staff trained on CVA	1,200	130
# of market assessments conducted	2	0
# of new FSPs procured	2	2
# of staff and volunteers using PDM data collection tools	1,200	130
# of post-distribution monitoring conducted during the response	4	1
# of PDM reports produced	4	1

Priority Actions

The operation initiated CVA activities in Sinazongwe and Chikankata districts out of the five (5) originally planned districts on the following:



*Launching of Cash Distribution in Sinazongwe District.
Photo: ZRCS*

- Briefed the district authorities on cash assistance for 4 months with a top-up of K400 targeting government enumerated list of beneficiaries. The K600 is a top up to the K400 per household, per month provided by the government through the social protection program to help household meet their immediate needs.
- The process of re-engaging MTN as a Finance Service Provider was initiated and will lead to validation and registration of beneficiaries, establishment of the necessary structures and execution of encashment.

- The process of sensitization, validation and registration is ongoing.
- The NS is working with District Social Welfare to follow up the beneficiary list of the wards and populations from each Community Welfare Committee (CWAC) for effective planning.
- Successfully launched the cash assistance program where the District Commissioner, ZRCS President and other dignitaries witnessed the occasion.
- 4,577 households (87%) out of 5,232** were successfully validated and registered for cash assistance.
- 4,478 households (86%) out of 5,232** have successfully been paid K400 after being registered.
- MTN initiated offline registration to areas where there was limited network though the speed of activating sim cards remained very slow hence affecting the cash delivery program.
- The first cash distribution is still ongoing for the areas registered offline.

- The cash transfer value from **K400 to K600** was based on the market assessment conducted by the WFP recently.
- The NS commenced the second cash distribution in September only for those who already received the first payment, a total of **3,233 beneficiaries have received a k600** for their second installment.



Beneficiaries during cash distribution in Sinazongwe

Remaining Activities

The remaining activities will be based on actual operational budget and actual incomes received in the appeal.

- Conduct the third and fourth cash distribution in Sinazongwe and Chikankata Districts
- Conduct post distribution monitoring in Sinazongwe and Chikankata Districts
- Conduct end term review for Sinazongwe and Chikankata District
- Conduct lessons learnt workshop

RESPONSE PILLAR 2: HEALTH AND NUTRITION

	Health & Nutrition	Female > 18: 11483	Female < 18: 11483
		Male > 18: 11033	Male < 18: 11034
Objective:	Support 80% of the affected people in the five districts of Sinazongwe, Siavonga, Chirundu, Gwembe, and Chikankata with health and nutrition interventions that are useful for improved well-being.		
Key Indicators:		Targets	Actual
# of people in the target communities reached with health promotion messages		380,160	45,033
# of volunteers in the affected communities who are trained		1150	111
# of Branch Transmission Interruption Trainings (BITTs) established in the target communities		5	0
# of volunteers trained in CBHFA, RCCE, and CBS		1,150	111
% of children reached for growth and nutrition monitoring		900	1,223
# of backyard gardens established and supported with farm inputs		900	0
# of demonstrations on food preservation, drying, curing and safe packaging of		18	0

stable foods & vegetables to reduce waste, extend long term shelf life

Priority Actions:

Training of Volunteers on RCCE, CEA, PGI, PFA, CBS, and GMP



- Based on the identified gaps from the assessment of needs, a total of **111 volunteers** were trained on critical community health and engagement topics to enhance their capacity in responding to public health challenges. The training covered:
 - Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE):** Volunteers were trained to effectively communicate public health messages, address misinformation, and engage communities in behavior change strategies, ensuring improved health outcomes.
 - Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):** Volunteers gained skills to involve communities in decision-making, promote transparency, and establish feedback mechanisms, strengthening trust and participation in health initiatives.
 - Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI):** Training sessions focused on identifying and addressing vulnerabilities, integrating gender-sensitive programming, and ensuring inclusive humanitarian responses, particularly for marginalized groups.
 - Psychological First Aid (PFA):** Volunteers were taught how to provide immediate emotional and psychological support to individuals experiencing trauma or distress, enhancing community resilience during the drought crises.
 - Community-Based Surveillance (CBS):** Volunteers were equipped to detect and report early warning signs of disease outbreaks at the community level, strengthening disease surveillance and response efforts.
 - Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP):** Volunteers were trained in monitoring child nutrition using MUAC screening, detecting malnutrition early, and promoting proper child feeding practices, contributing to improved child health outcomes.

Identification of Malnourished Children Under Five Using MUAC

- Through door-to-door activities, volunteers screened a total of **1,223 children under the age of five using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)** measurements to assess their nutritional status. MUAC is a simple yet effective tool to detect malnutrition, allowing for early identification and timely intervention. The results revealed:
 - Children in the Green Zone (Normal Nutrition Status) were encouraged to continue with appropriate feeding and routine growth monitoring.
 - Children in the Yellow Zone (Moderate Acute



Screening of a child using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference Photo: ZRCS

Malnutrition - MAM) were advised to receive nutritional support and close monitoring.

- Children in the Red Zone (Severe Acute Malnutrition - SAM) were referred to health facilities for immediate therapeutic feeding and medical attention.
- This proactive approach has been instrumental in identifying malnourished children early and linking them to lifesaving nutritional interventions.

Procurement of High Energy Protein Supplements (HEPS) for Malnourished Children

- To support identified cases of malnutrition, **100 bags (25kg each) of High Energy Protein Supplements (HEPS)** were procured. These supplements are fortified with essential nutrients, providing high-calorie and protein-rich food to aid in the recovery of children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM). The distribution of HEPS was done in coordination with local health facilities and community health workers to ensure proper usage and follow-up.
- The provision of HEPS played a significant role in improving the nutritional status of affected children, preventing their condition from worsening into Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), and promoting overall child health in vulnerable households.

Procurement of Therapeutic Food for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) Cases

- In response to the urgent needs of children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), **15,000 sachets of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF)** were procured. These sachets contain energy-dense peanut-based paste enriched with vitamins and minerals, designed for home-based treatment of SAM cases without complications.
- The therapeutic food was distributed through local health facilities and community outreach programs, ensuring that children with severe malnutrition received the appropriate nutrition to support their recovery. Health workers and volunteers provided guidance to caregivers on how to administer the therapeutic food, monitor progress, and seek further medical attention when necessary.



Offloading of Ready to Use Therapeutic Food to ZRCS Warehouse

Community Sensitization Through Radio Programs on GMP and Immunization

To enhance awareness on child health and nutrition, **one radio program** was conducted to sensitize communities in Sinazongwe on the importance of Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) and immunization. The program covered:

- The significance of routine child growth monitoring in detecting malnutrition early.
- Encouraging parents and caregivers to take their children for regular weight and height checks.
- The role of immunization in preventing childhood illnesses and reducing mortality.
- Addressing myths and misconceptions about vaccinations.
- The radio program allowed for wider community engagement, reaching audiences who might not have direct contact with volunteers or health workers. Listeners were encouraged to visit health facilities for child check-ups and vaccinations, reinforcing positive health-seeking behaviors.

Reaching Households with Key Messages on Disease Prevention and Child Health

Through the efforts of trained volunteers, **4,567 households** were reached with key messages on disease prevention, child nutrition, hygiene, and overall health promotion. These outreach activities focused on:

- Educating families on preventing communicable diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, and respiratory infections through improved hygiene and sanitation.
- Promoting exclusive breastfeeding for infants under six months and appropriate complementary feeding

for older children.

- Encouraging families to seek medical care at the first signs of illness, reducing preventable complications.
- Distributing educational materials and engaging in discussions to address community concerns and misconceptions about child health interventions.

Remaining Activities

The remaining activities will be based on actual operational budget and actual incomes received in the appeal.

- Training 50 volunteers on RCCE, CBS, PFA and GMP in Chikankata District.
- Training of volunteers and staff in PGI in Sinazongwe District.
- Training of volunteers in health promotion in Chikankata District.
- Conduct community radio programs and sensitization in Chikankata.

RESPONSE PILLAR 3: WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Female > 18: 3957	Female < 18: 3957
		Male > 18: 3802	Female < 18: 3802
Objective:		Promote community managed WASH services for the targeted populations to reduce health risks.	
Key Indicators:		Targets	Actual
# of people reached by WASH assistance		380,160	15,518
# of new water points constructed per district		25	0
# of boreholes rehabilitated or upgraded per district		422	46
# of people accessing safe water from the drilled and rehabilitated water points		111,750	15,518
# of hand washing facilities constructed by the community in the response period (Tippy Tap)		17,600	0
# of HHs support in constructing their own sanitation facilities		17,600	0
# of active WASH action teams in targeted schools, health facilities, and public places		285	0
# of volunteers conducting advocacy communication and social mobilization on hygiene promotion		1,150	0
# of APMs trained and equipped with operation & maintenance (O&M) tool kits (20 per district)		100	20
# of households reached with effective water treatment materials, and promotion in the recovery period		63,360	0
# of water points committees formed/activated		447	46
# of D and V WASH committees trained/reactivation (five D-WASH=100) (447 V-WASH)		547	400
Priority Activities:			
• Training for 20 Area Pump Menders were conducted in Sinazongwe District across the 8 wards where 40 boreholes were targeted for rehabilitation. • A stakeholder engagement meeting was held to discuss the WASH assessment, which evaluated 97 water points across 10 wards of Sinazongwe district. Of these 64 were found to be functional, while 33			

were nonfunctional. 90% of the functional boreholes are prone to frequent breakdowns due to old parts.

- Procurement of **40 hand pumps** was done and were delivered to the respective water points after which the rehabilitation was undertaken led by the WASH consultant whilst working with the local stakeholders: Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Community Development among others. Prior to the rehabilitation process respective water point Committees were mobilized and oriented in the operation and maintained boreholes.

Remaining Activities

The remaining activities will be based on actual operational budget and actual incomes received in the appeal.

- Procure borehole rehabilitation kits for **20 boreholes** in Chikankata District.
- Train area pump menders in Chikankata District.
- Formation of water point committee in Chikankata District.
- Rehabilitation of **20 boreholes** in Chikankata District.
- Train volunteers on hygiene promotion and community let total sanitation (CLTS).
- Upgrade of **5 identified boreholes** in Sinazongwe District.
- Procurement and distribution of liquid chlorine and multi-purpose soap in Chikankata and Sinazongwe Districts.
- Procurement and distribution of menstrual hygiene kits.

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: 33	Female < 18: 33
		Male > 18: 32	Female < 18: 32
Objective:	<i>Promote equitable access by all to quality basic services by considering basic needs based on gender and other diversity factors.</i>		
Key Indicators:		Targets	Actual
# of staff, partners, and volunteers oriented on PSEA, GBV, PGI, the code of conduct, and child safeguarding		1,200	130
# of volunteers trained on basic psychological first aid (PFA)		100	<u>111</u>
# of volunteers and staff that have signed the code of conduct		1,200	130
# of GBV cases recorded and resolved (30 per district)		<u>60</u>	0
# of referral pathways established (one per district)		<u>2</u>	1
Priority Actions			
• The National Society actively participates in Protection Cluster and Interagency PSEA Network meetings,			

providing valuable contributions to the monthly 5Ws report, well as strengthening the referral pathways for GBV.

- A total of **75 volunteers in Chikankata District** were successfully trained in Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI). This training equips them with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively identify SGBV, Child Protection and referral cases. Trained volunteers were oriented and signed the code of conduct.
- As part of the ongoing commitment to strengthen community engagement and protection mechanisms, continued targeted training programs on protection, Gender and inclusion (PGI) will be conducted for volunteers and staff. This initiative aims to equip them with necessary knowledge and skills to ensure that PGI principles are effectively integrated into all aspects of the operation.
- Supported the strengthening of referral pathways in Chikankata district and Sinazongwe district through the distribution of IEC materials in district offices and distribution sites. Community sensitization is also conducted on the reporting system on the one stop center, victim support unit and ZRCS toll free line
- Other planned activities under PGI include stakeholder forum, IEC materials, establishment of a referral pathway in Sinazongwe in addition to the Chikankata,
- With support from IFRC, the NS conducted Focus Group Discussions to identify the community needs and coping mechanisms. The team found that there was an increase in the negative coping mechanisms such as child labor, prostitution, early marriages and excessive drinking beer. Based on the outcomes, the NS developed key messages and have been sensitizing the communities.
- A total of **130 volunteer volunteers and staff** were oriented on what RC Movement is including fundamental principles and ZRCS drought response operation, these as well signed the code of conduct
- **Basic psychological first aid (PFA)** - As part of the drought response, **111 volunteers were trained in Psychological First Aid (PFA)** to provide emotional support to individuals and families struggling with food shortages and displacement. The volunteers offer a listening ear and help people manage the stress, anxiety, and emotional strain caused by the ongoing drought. Their role is crucial in providing immediate, accessible support during a time of crisis, helping families cope with the emotional toll of losing their homes or livelihoods. By offering this support, the volunteers help create a sense of stability and hope, ensuring that people not only receive essential resources but also the emotional care needed to overcome the challenges of the drought.

Remaining Activities

The remaining activities will be based on actual operational budget and actual incomes received in the appeal.

- Train Volunteers in PGI in Sinazongwe District
- Establish referral pathways in Sinazongwe and Chikankata District
- Orientation of local leaders in Sinazongwe district

	Community Engagement and Accountability	Female > 18: 47	Female < 18: 47
		Male > 18: 46	Male < 18: 46
Objective:	<i>Promote a community-centred approach and meaningful participation to address the diverse needs, priorities, and preferences of the affected population.</i>		
Key Indicators:		Targets	Actual
# of community meetings to discuss issues related to CEA/PGI/RCCE		20	47

# of staff and volunteers trained on CEA	1,150	186
# of response activities integrating CEA approaches in their activities	0	5
% of people surveyed who feel their opinion is considered in decisions about services, programmes, and operations	80%	80%
# of help desks set up in communities	20	52
# of methods established to communicate with communities about what is happening in the organization/programme/operation, including selection criteria if these are being used.	3	4
% of individuals who trust the authorities and Red Cross Red Crescent leading the response	100%	100%

Priority Actions:

- Consultative feedback meetings were held in **10 areas, with 37 communities in Sinazongwe district**. Feedback showed that farming inputs and cash transfers helped reduce hunger and improve nutrition, though issues like poor germination of okra seeds and pest infestations were noted. Preferred communication channels included toll-free lines, CWACs, field officers, and radio calls. Community members suggested earlier input distribution, replacing okra with beans, and providing household financial management training to reduce conflicts over funds. The feedback will help guide the drought response.
- A total of **52 help desks were established in 52 cash distribution points** to collection feedback from the communities during cash distribution in Sinazongwe district. Most complaints received were around families who were not included in the programs.



- Trained **186 volunteers in Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)** to enhance their skills in effective communication with affected communities, feedback data collection and analysis to ensure informed decision-making and addressing community concerns in a timely and responsive manner.
- A total of **47 community consultative feedback meetings** were conducted to get community insights and the overall situation, with a total of **6,474 participants (4,066 were women and 2,408 men)**.
- A total number of feedback received from the toll-free line and the door-to-door engagements were **1,195**. The feedback included requests to be added to the beneficiary list, inquiries about whether groundnuts could be included as a suitable crop for the soil, concerns about individuals not receiving their cash, and compliments regarding both the agricultural inputs and the cash support received.
- The feedback played a critical role in guiding response decisions, leading to borehole rehabilitation in priority areas to improve access to clean water, Inclusion of ground nut seeds in farming input distribution to enhance nutrition and food security and targeted distribution of Plumpy Nut to address child malnutrition, responding to direct requests from affected families. Collected feedback was also shared across all response sectors, enabling stakeholders to analyze trends, identify priorities, and adjust

ZRCS CEA Dashboard. ZRCS Volunteers conducting community feedback meetings. Photos: ZRCS

interventions. This ensured a more targeted, effective, and community-driven response.

- To facilitate two-way communication, four trusted and preferred communication channels were established including community meetings, the toll-free line (7373), door-to-door engagements and Help desks at cash distribution points to address immediate concerns during cash validation and distribution.
- CEA approaches were successfully integrated into five key response activities, promoting community participation and transparency. These activities comprised: Farming input distribution – Incorporating community feedback (help desks) to prioritize and distribute essential farming inputs like seeds, ensuring relevance to the local needs. Cash distribution – providing financial assistance while addressing community concerns through feedback mechanisms(help desks), Cash validation – Verifying beneficiaries and ensuring fairness in the distribution process, Volunteer training in health response – Equipping volunteers with skills to support health interventions and effectively engage communities, Community meetings – Creating platforms for dialogue, feedback collection on all sectors, and decision-making to enhance response efforts.

Remaining Activities

The remaining activities will be based on actual operational budget and actual incomes received in the appeal.

- Conduct community consultative meetings in Sinazongwe and Chikankata District.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation, and Recovery

Objective:

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.

Priority Actions:

- No activities were implemented in the reporting period.
- The operation has been promoting climate smart agriculture activities to ensure climate adaptation resilience, recovery, and CEA/PGI integration.
- The ZRCS has developed early action protocols for drought currently under review to facilitate the implementation of early actions in the coming season in case of prolonged impacts of the drought, his will be supplemented by the flood early action protocols in anticipation of La Niña weather conditions that may cause floods in the coming rainy season.
- 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



National Society Strengthening

Objective:

Strengthen the National Society's capacity to deliver humanitarian Objective:

Key Indicators:	Targets	Actual
# of volunteers recruited	1,150	120
# of volunteers insured	1,158	120
# of Branch Offices renovated	0	0
# of Branch leadership oriented on the RCRC Movement and ZRCS policies and guidelines	20	10
# of staff and volunteers trained in BOCA	200	0
# of regional warehouses supported for stock prepositioning	3	0
Priority Actions:		
120 volunteers were mobilized and trained on the thematic areas above as well as ensured after signing the code of conduct. The volunteers have been insured as well. 10 Branch Executive Committee (BEC) members in Sinazongwe were oriented in their roles and responsibilities as BEC as well as the drought response operations in terms of the key sectors involved and response strategy. The orientation was aimed at equipping them with skills and knowledge to be able to fully know how to fit in the office and drought response operation. - ZRCS through branch development will continue to mobilize more volunteers in Chikankata district. - The renovation of Sinazongwe branch office was removed from the budget due to a low funding scenario which could not accommodate the activity.		
Human Resource:		
- The National Society has engaged an Operations Coordinator responsible for the overall coordination and four project officers responsible for all response activities. The response has further recruited District project and assistant project officers who will work closely with the volunteers and carry out day-to-day activities in each of the five targeted districts. PGI focal person has also been engaged to support the NS programmes. - ZRCS has also recruited the following support staff: Drivers, logistics officer, PMER officer, health promotion officer, project officers, assistant project officer, WASH officer and accountant.		
Remaining Activities		
The remaining activities will be based on actual operational budget and actual incomes received in the appeal.		
Conduct BOCA training in Sinazongwe and Chikankata District.		

	Coordination and Partnerships		
Objective:	<i>Enhance coordination and partnerships among Movement and non-Movement partners to support stronger and more localized implementation approaches and effective response delivery</i>		
Key Indicators:	Targets	Actual	
# of Movement and non-Movement partners supporting the ZRCS in the response	10	4	
# of regular coordination meetings conducted involving partners (monthly)	24	6	
# of assessments (baseline, midterm, and endline evaluations) conducted	3	1	
# of assessment reports submitted including data quality	4	1	
# of monitoring visits including data quality audits on the response	8	1	
# of international forums and meetings participated in	5	0	
Priority Actions:			

- The NS is responding to the impacts of drought with **support from Movement and non-Movement** partners. Currently, **ECHO** through the PPP project, donation from **Czech Republic** through their embassy have provided bilateral support to the NS.
- **IFRC** supported the NS launch the Emergency Appeal and it has received tremendous support multilaterally from the Netherlands Government through **Netherlands Red Cross, the Italian Government through the Italian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, ECHO, Japanese Red Cross and Monaco Red Cross**. All these donors have contributed to the NS achieving the targets in each thematic area above.
- Internal and external **Coordination** and planning meetings have been held on a weekly basis to update on progress, plan and monitor the evolving drought situation and respond appropriately.
- ZRC is a member of FSL, RCCE and WASH clusters and has been well represented with support from IFRC and NLRC. The SG and the Operation delegates participate in HCMs.
- The NS with support from internal Data, Planning, Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting (Data PMER) conducted a **baseline study**. The broader objective of the study was to contribute to increased accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Drought Appeal. The report generated information which is guiding ZRCS in terms of planning, implementation, M&E processes, and results tracking.

Membership Coordination:

- Membership coordination has been ongoing through IMS weekly meetings. Meetings are attended by IFRC, NLRC and the NS.

Engagement with External Partners:

- 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), Humanitarian Team Coordination (HTC) in order to share updates and progress in the response operation.
- The ZRCS will also continue regular discussions and coordination with the national authorities.

Remaining Activities

The remaining activities will be based on actual operational budget and actual incomes received in the appeal.

- Conduct senior management monitoring visit in Sinazongwe and Chikankata Districts.
- Upcoming IFRC Operational and Technical Monitoring visits.
- Joint monitoring and Supervision from Relevant stakeholders including the government.

	IFRC Secretariat Services		
Objective:	Provide leadership and policy guidance to the National Society, donors, and partners on programme operations.		
Key Indicators:	Targets	Actual	
# of global and regional surge	5	5	
# of Federation-wide reporting set up by Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)	1	3	
# of risk registers are set up, mitigation measures identified and monitored once per month.	12	5	
Priority Actions:			

IFRC Secretariat services

- IFRC supported the development of Zambia Country profile for Drought which provided key information of the drought situation in the country and the actions the National Society was undertaking. This was a great tool to share quick insights of the situation and the gaps to the stakeholders and was instrumental in resource mobilization.
- IFRC equally hosted a Southern Africa Workshop in Harare, Zimbabwe which brought together National Societies in Southern Africa including Zambia Red Cross and the Partner National Societies.
- Through the IFRC surge system deployed Operations Manager; WASH Coordinator; PGI Coordinator; Finance Coordinator and Food Security and Livelihood who are supporting the NS implementing the interventions.
- A risk register has been developed and is being monitored on a monthly basis.
- 4 vehicles deployed to support the operation through the vehicle rental programme.

Communications:

- Media profiling for the operation was done in the farm input distribution and cash and farming distribution in Sinazongwe.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E):

- The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) strategy for this response has adopted a systematic approach to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and outcomes of the interventions.
- A baseline survey was conducted in the two targeted Districts and data collection and reporting tools were developed and shared with the operations team who supported the execution of the survey.
- A post distribution monitoring was conducted for both CVA and farming inputs.

Security:

- Currently, there are no security concerns in the country, but the situation is continuously being monitored.

D. FUNDING

To date, the Emergency Appeal is only **20.65%** covered out of the total funding requested for the Federation Wide Appeal. This funding will significantly contribute to meeting the needs of the drought affected population. The following table shows an overview of the Federation Wide response while a detailed financial report is embedded in this report.

Donor	Modality/ Area of Intervention	Provinces	Pledge (CHF)	Remarks
Bi lateral and Domestic				
Czech Republic			184,656.00	
IFRC Secretariat - ask CHF 8,000,000				
DREF loan			900,000.00	
Canadian Red Cross			162,895.00	
Netherlands Red Cross			299,914.00	
Monaco Red Cross			14,384.00	
Japanese Red Cross			28,736.00	
ECHO			194,353.00	
Italian Government			486,251.00	
Total Federation Wide - ask CHF 11,000,000				
		Total received	2,271,189.00	

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation, please contact:

Zambia Red Cross Society:

- Secretary General: Cosmas Sakala, Cosmas.sakala@redcross.org.zm +260963724899
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For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- Manager, Global Humanitarian Services & Supply Chain Management, Africa Region: Allan Kilaka Masavah, allan.masavah@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting enquiries):

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to Principles of Humanitarian Action and IFRC policies and procedures. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

Reference documents

Click [here](#) for:

- [MDRZM022 Emergency Appeal](#)
- [Operations Strategy](#)
- [Operations Update #1](#)
- [Operations Update #2](#)
- [6 Month Ops Update](#)

Operational Strategy

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2024/03-2025/06	Operation	MDRZM022
Budget Timeframe	2024/03-2025/06	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 04 Jun 2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRZM022 - Zambia - Drought

Operating Timeframe: 22 Mar 2024 to 30 Jun 2025; appeal launch date: 14 May 2024

I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Total Funding Requirements	8,000,000
Donor Response* as per 04 Jun 2025	1,507,269
Appeal Coverage	18.84%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Planned Operations / Enabling Approaches	Op Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	0	0	0
PO02 - Livelihoods	277,789	125,080	152,709
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	896,136	590,912	305,224
PO04 - Health	37,292	102,817	-65,525
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	384,274	303,577	80,698
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	37,689	21,117	16,572
PO07 - Education	0	0	0
PO08 - Migration	0	0	0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	45,809	82,405	-36,596
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	36,491	23,205	13,286
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0
Planned Operations Total	1,715,480	1,249,113	466,367
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	112,041	60,294	51,748
EA02 - Secretariat Services	415,588	138,954	276,634
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	421,170	150,877	270,293
Enabling Approaches Total	948,800	350,125	598,675
Grand Total	2,664,280	1,599,238	1,065,042

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2025/06

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	2,556,810
Expenditure	-1,599,238
Closing Balance	957,572
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	957,572

IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	1,049,541	Reimbursed :	149,541	Outstanding :	900,000
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Operational Strategy

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2024/03-2025/06	Operation	MDRZM022
Budget Timeframe	2024/03-2025/06	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 04 Jun 2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRZM022 - Zambia - Drought

Operating Timeframe: 22 Mar 2024 to 30 Jun 2025; appeal launch date: 14 May 2024

V. Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Opening Balance					0	
Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income
DREF Response Pillar				900,000	900,000	
European Commission - DG ECHO	188,189				188,189	
Italian Government	481,475				481,475	
Italian Government Bilateral Emergency Fund	481,475				481,475	
Japanese Red Cross Society	28,291				28,291	
Red Cross of Monaco	14,111				14,111	
The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Gov	163,343				163,343	
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Govern	299,926				299,926	
Total Contributions and Other Income	1,656,810	0	0	900,000	2,556,810	0
Total Income and Deferred Income					2,556,810	0

The Italian Government pledge has been cancelled and should not be part of total income. Thus, total contributions less CHF 481,475 should be CHF 2,075,335 as at the date of operational issuance of this report.