This document details the IFRC’s support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.
Politically, Zambia is considered a stable and peaceful country with successful democratic elections held every five years, though incidences of violence have been reported during and after polls. The next elections are due in August 2021.

Zambia is particularly vulnerable to disasters due to its rapidly growing landlocked population and declining economic performance. The population is increasing by 2.8 per cent every year; however, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell by 3.7 per cent between 2015 and 2019. The lack of financial resources shows that the country is struggling to meet its communities’ needs and that social services, employment and healthcare provision are suffering.

HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are the most significant health development challenges, with malaria classed as endemic in all 10 Zambian provinces. The financial strain on Zambia has also been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, depreciating the national currency, Kwacha, by 30 per cent and increasing external debt servicing costs and domestic inflationary pressures. Falling revenues and increased COVID-19-related spending will inevitably worsen the 2020 fiscal position. The pandemic also threatens to disrupt the livelihoods of thousands of families in Zambia, with the potential to reinforce poverty and deepen food and nutrition insecurity. Furthermore, economic disruptions have slowed down investments, resulting in high unemployment and declining remittances. The country experiences a significant disease burden and is prone to various hazards, including drought, floods, epidemics such as cholera and population movement.

Poverty remains high and widespread in Zambia, with 60 per cent of the population living below the poverty line. The prevalence of poverty in Zambia is generally higher in rural and remote areas, but it also occurs in urban areas. Urban poverty could rise in the future as the population continues to grow, while employment and self-employment opportunities are not created fast enough.
The Zambia Red Cross Society is an auxiliary institution to public authorities in Zambia, established by law, with the mandate of complementing the government's efforts to alleviate human suffering across the country. In delivering on this mandate, the National Society implements various programmes through a volunteer network of 5,000 people, focusing on:

- Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
- Population Movement
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Restoring Family Links (RFL)

With technical and financial support from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and partner National Societies, primarily the Netherlands Red Cross, the Zambia National Society has been an active partner to the government in providing emergency preparedness and response services to various disasters such as floods, epidemics and population movement. In line with its mandate, the National Society is well placed to be first responders in Zambia, specifically acting on the preventive side due to a wide presence of community-based volunteers. The National Society integrates Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) in its programming, two critical cross-cutting programmes across Red Cross societies in Africa.
Strong membership coordination is an essential element for ensuring an effective National Society. The National Society in Zambia connects with other National Societies bilaterally and multilaterally through the IFRC’s surge tools and coordination agreements. The National Society also endeavours to collaborate and engage with a significant broad scope of networks to improve its impact in Zambia. Furthermore, the National Society draws on knowledge and expertise from across the network when it is needed to enhance capacity and build resilience.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) provides technical and financial support to the National Society to facilitate preparedness and response to natural disasters, whilst the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supports the National Society in responding to man-made disasters.

In delivering its mandate, the National Society works in close collaboration with relevant government ministries, departments and others to strengthen coordination, ensure alignment and enhance complementarity, including:

- The Ministry of Health, Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) under the Office of the Vice President
- The Water Resource Management Authority (WARMA)
- The Zambia Meteorological Department

Other external partners include UNICEF, WHO and WFP and local and international NGOs such as World Vision, Plan International, and Oxfam.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

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<th>Name of Partner</th>
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Netherlands Red Cross

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Membership coordination and Movement footprint
Zambia is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, aggravated by population growth and social marginalisation. The Western and Southern provinces have historically experienced a lack of access to resources due to frequent dry spells. Luapula, Northern, Eastern, and North-Western Provinces are impacted by floods, increasing risks and vulnerabilities such as population displacement and environmental degradation, particularly affecting those relying on farming, livestock, and forestry products.

These disasters are amplified by the growing impact of climate change, deforestation, poor governance and weak rule of law. Communities and National Society staff and volunteers are undertaking urgent action to reduce and adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support the National Society with assessments during disasters like floods and droughts, incorporating IFRC Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) & Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approaches
- The IFRC will support the training of National Society staff and volunteers on climate change, climate action & climate-smart programming
- The IFRC will support the National Society with the development and implementation of Hydro and Meteorological Early Warning Systems in disaster-prone areas

**Funding requirement in Swiss francs**

150,000

**People to be reached**

48,000
Evolving crises and disasters

Zambia is exposed to several natural hazards that cause population mobility and displacement among its communities. These phenomena have led to severe food shortages and income loss for many families whose mainstay is rainfed agriculture. The drought has contributed to both forced and voluntary population movements, with people sometimes opting to relocate to areas deemed to have better rainfall and thus better agricultural prospects. However, this same scenario also increases people’s vulnerabilities to human trafficking as they migrate in search of survival opportunities.

Tensions are building over resources as communities move in search of water, with children accompanying their parents over long distances searching for survival options. Many families have lost their livelihoods due to the drought. This has heightened their risk of adopting negative coping strategies, including pushing women and children into forced and child labour, taking children out of school, human and child trafficking situations, and forced child marriage and transactional sex for survival.

Limited community and stakeholder preparedness to deal with the recurring population displacements linked to droughts and flooding pose a severe health risk to the affected populations, notably for outbreaks such as cholera and other waterborne diseases. Due to the proximity to the Democratic Republic of Congo, the country periodically experiences inflows of asylum seekers who need comprehensive assistance, which acts as an additional burden in a resource-constrained country.

**Activities**

- The IFRC will support the National Society with coordination and partnerships with local women’s organisations to ensure their work informs Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) referral and response mechanisms
- The IFRC will support the National Society to develop and implement SGBV preventive activities and modules such as Psychological Support (PSS) groups for men and boys in emergency operations
- The IFRC will support the National Society to distribute non-food items (NFIs) such as mats, plastic sheets, blankets, empty sacks to be used as flood embankments and tents in case of evacuation, and WASH items such as chlorine/water purification tablets, Jerry cans and soap
- The IFRC will support the National Society to assess the needs of affected populations during disasters
- The IFRC will provide the National Society with support on disaster law for Zambia

**Funding requirement in Swiss francs**

200,000

**People to be reached**

48,000
Access to basic health services in Zambia is limited. In urban areas, 99 per cent of households are within 5 km of a health facility, compared to only 50 per cent in rural areas. In Zambia, household expenditures on health vary according to location. Poor households spend the highest proportion of their income on health, which can be up to 10 per cent of total expenditure. Long distances, cost and lack of transport in a sparsely populated country like Zambia are crucial determinants of health-seeking behaviour. HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are the most significant health development challenges, with malaria classed as endemic in all 10 Zambian provinces.

According to the UN, Zambia's COVID-19 situation has continued to deteriorate at an alarming rate, with ten provinces and 48 out of 111 districts recording confirmed cases. The majority of confirmed cases are locally transmitted, and over 80 per cent of the deaths reported occurred outside health facilities, indicating a higher community transmission. It is also clear that severe cases are not seeking treatment from health facilities. As of 28 September 2020, Zambia had 14,660 cumulative cases and 111 deaths.

The lack of access to improved WASH services still poses a significant risk to people in Zambia, with an overall nationwide WASH coverage of 68 per cent and 44 per cent in water supply and sanitation respectively. Access to these services among the rural poor is disproportionately lower. This lower coverage has given rise to frequent outbreaks of diarrheal diseases, including cholera in some hotspot areas.

Zambia is one of the few countries which has developed its National Cholera Elimination plan in coordination with partners such as UNICEF and WHO. In 2021, the IFRC’s WASH support plan will contribute to community health in emergencies. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will support identified districts to build branch response teams whose role will be to enhance cholera preparedness activities. This includes the deployment and operation of oral rehydration points and mounting action to prevent further transmission of cholera in areas with active outbreaks.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support the National Society to provide technical and material support and training to staff and volunteers for epidemic response initiatives, the implementation and use of chlorine makers, and on how to form community cholera preparedness teams to reduce infection
- The IFRC will support the National Society with regular attendance at cluster meetings at the national level
- The IFRC will support the National Society to assess the health needs of target communities
- The IFRC will support the National Society to provide first aid services in a commercial context and with SGBV and PSS services to affected populations
- The IFRC will support the National Society to integrate child protection principles and approach into tools and projects for prevention of infectious diseases
Migration dynamics in Zambia are complex, as it is a country of transit for multiple surrounding countries and a destination for men, women and children including labour migrants, asylum seekers, irregular migrants and victims of human trafficking within the southern Africa region and beyond. At present, migration data in Zambia is analysed and addressed in a fragmented manner, and administrative records are not collected to measure migration in its entirety.

Migration impacts on national population change, as well as urbanisation trends. Zambia hosts a significant number of refugees and asylum seekers. As part of durable solutions for refugees, Zambia provides local integration assistance to former Angolan and Rwandan refugees whose refugee status in Zambia has expired in recent years. Extreme weather events and disasters, such as floods and persistent droughts, contribute to the internal displacement of persons in Zambia. Other factors include land disputes, development projects, the encroachment of populations on occupied land and conflicts along national border areas. The National Society will work to ensure migrants and displaced persons have access to assistance and protection at critical points along migratory routes and access to durable solutions where appropriate. The assistance and protection needed of vulnerable migrants, whatever their status, will be addressed through effective access to essential services, including through the establishment of Humanitarian Service Points (HSP).

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support the National Society to provide Restoring Family Links (RFL) services
- The IFRC will support the National Society to develop contingency and response plans for the 2021 general elections
- The IFRC will support the National Society with assistance to address the immediate needs of internally displaced people, e.g. shelter, food, cash and WASH
- The IFRC will support the National Society to engage with relevant stakeholders, including the UN, on migrant protection issues
The WHO and the World Bank estimate that 15 per cent of the world’s population – about one billion people – live with some form of impairment. Patterns of disability in each country are influenced by changes in health, the environment, legislation and how various types of disability are conceptualised. Other factors include the incidence of road traffic accidents, natural disasters, armed conflict and violence, environmental hazards, poor nutrition, substance abuse, and coverage of health and social protection systems.

There is evidence that excluding persons with disabilities comes at a cost. An exploratory study by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 10 developing countries has shown that excluding persons with disabilities from the labour market results in a loss of GDP between 3 per cent and 7 per cent.

Discrimination affects people on the basis of differential treatment, prejudice and barriers to full participation. It is essential to highlight that persons with disabilities can also be subject to discrimination regarding gender, age, sexual orientation and health, including HIV, socio-economic status, religion, nationality and ethnic origin. Multiple discriminations may take place, rendering the people concerned even more vulnerable to social exclusion. Safe humanitarian delivery to the end-user is an integral part of all humanitarian action.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support the National Society to promote gender inclusion through the recruitment of appropriately trained staff and volunteers and the encouragement of PGI committees at the community level
- The IFRC will support the National Society to build the capacity of staff and volunteers on PGI and the prevention of PSEA
- The IFRC will support the National Society to develop and distribute inclusive IEC materials
- The IFRC will support the National Society to provide disability-friendly structures, such as latrines in all programmes
- The IFRC will support the National Society to establish referral mechanisms for SGBV survivors in all emergency responses and with participation in SGBV coordination forums
The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen its engagement with partners within and outside the network to work collectively on critical challenges facing the communities it serves.

The IFRC will support the National Society to review its strategic plan, guiding future support and equipping the National Society to deal better with emerging vulnerabilities. The IFRC will also support the National Society to lead regular movement coordination forums to improve transparency and accountability on technical and funding support and encourage peer to peer learning on these key issues. They will strengthen cooperation with regional and global centres, identifying opportunities for programming support and potential service agreements. The National Society will also collaborate with the IFRC on profiling its activities, helping to increase its visibility and fundraising efforts in Zambia.

The National Society will encourage its staff to enlist for surge support to enrich their capacity and visibility in the community and register for a digital fundraising platform to further support its development. The IFRC will support the National Society with ICT tools to advance its digital processes and provide staff training and capacity building to ensure that activities are data-driven. It will also help develop an information management system for enhanced communication and information sharing within the National Society.

The National Society will continue to work with the IFRC to promote a strong public profile as effective advocates, influencing both public behaviour and policy change at domestic, regional and global levels. The IFRC will continue to support the National Society with resources and advice to increase their impact and enhance public trust and understanding of roles and activities.

The IFRC supports the National Society to strengthen its auxiliary role, position and voice as a humanitarian organisation, regaining its status as a partner of choice by developing a strategic plan and increased visibility.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support the National Society to finalise the strategic plan review to guide future support and equip the National Society to deal better with emerging community vulnerabilities
- The IFRC will support the National Society to take a leadership role in regular coordination forums to improve transparency and accountability on technical and funding support
- The IFRC will support the National Society with the digital fundraising platform to support fundraising initiatives
- The IFRC will support the National Society to produce a documentary on COVID-19 intervention within communities
- The IFRC will support the National Society with the implementation of an information management framework and end-to-end solution, including data collection, analysis and dashboard
The IFRC will support the National Society to ensure that its financial resources are safeguarded and managed effectively, efficiently and transparently.

The National Society will finalise and disseminate its Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy, mainstreaming this policy across all of its programmes. The IFRC will also support staff and volunteers to learn how to use finance management systems.

The IFRC will implement its organisational risk management within the National Society, addressing risk management culture at all levels with a clear link to accountability and quality assurance.

The IFRC will support the National Society to develop a strategy to mitigate the risk of fraud, corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support the National Society to finalise and disseminate the PSEA policy
- The IFRC will support the National Society to train staff and volunteers on finance management systems
- The IFRC will support the National Society with the development of a strategy to mitigate the risk of fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse within the National Society
The IFRC supports the National Society in its development to become the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action, with the capacity to act in the global network.

The National Society will monitor and document lessons learned on new branch model implementation from the IFRC, assessing organisational capacity throughout.

The National Society will improve its financial sustainability by developing a strategic plan, with emphasis on accountability.

The National Society will have guidelines, tools, and mechanisms to prevent, manage and address integrity and reputational risks among its staff and volunteers, including policies relating to fraud, corruption, PSEA, discrimination, harassment and child safeguarding.

The IFRC prioritises volunteer development and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action and will support the National Society to ensure access to young people from all backgrounds.

The IFRC will support the National Society to adopt a Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) performance measurement framework, with clear benchmarks, ensuring consistency and alignment with international commitments.

**ACTIVITIES**

- The IFRC will support the National Society with branch organisation capacity assessment
- The IFRC will support the National Society to activate a strategic plan with an emphasis on financial sustainability improvement and accountability
- The IFRC will support the National Society with the institutionalisation of security management within National Society systems, with particular attention to volatile and high-tension operating contexts
- The IFRC will support the National Society to review volunteer and youth policies to ensure access for all and appropriate safety measures
- The IFRC will support the National Society with leadership training to promote transparency in recruiting youth leaders
- The IFRC will work with the National Society to support young people to participate in the Youth Networks, 2021 Pan Africa Conference and General Assembly
- The IFRC will support the National Society with the production of a CEA needs assessment and integration of CEA into all programmes
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 14 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.