



Staff checking on a maize field affected by drought in Mazabuka District, Southern Province

Appeal: <b>MDRZM022</b>	Country: <b>Zambia</b>	Hazard: <b>Drought</b>	Type of DREF: <b>Response</b>
Crisis Category: <b>Orange</b>	Event Onset: <b>Slow</b>	DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 750,459</b>	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: <b>5,000,000 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>160,000 people</b>	
Operation Start Date: <b>2024-03-22</b>	Operation Timeframe: <b>6 months</b>	Operation End Date: <b>30-09-2024</b>	DREF Published: <b>28-03-2024</b>

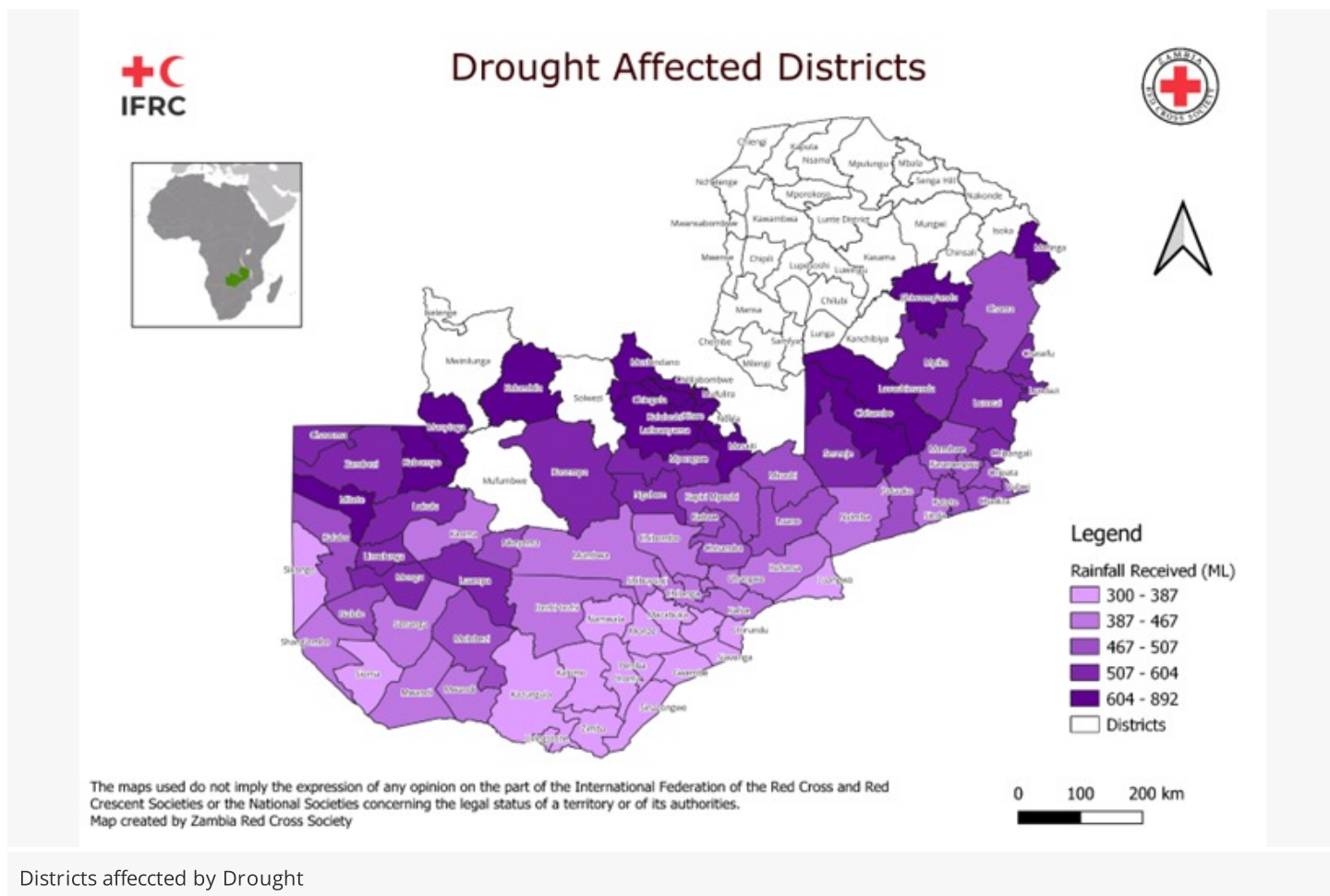
Targeted Areas: **Southern**

# Description of the Event

[Crisis Category Supporting Document](#)

## Date when the trigger was met

2024-02-29



Districts affected by Drought

## What happened, where and when?

The Zambian president declared a drought, disaster and emergency in Zambia on 29th February and called for local and international support. On 4th March, the Government through the Office of the vice president and Disaster Management Mitigation Unit (DMMU) called for consultative meeting with all relevant stakeholders to lobby for support following the declaration of the emergency. The Government indicated that there is need for multisectoral collaboration in responding to the emergency that has affected 1 million families across Zambia.

The whole Southern half of Zambia is experiencing a drought. The provinces affected include North-Western, Southern, Western, Central and Eastern. The country started experiencing the dry spells from 20th January when the rains were expected to be at a peak and crops to establish.

The drought currently experienced has affected a total of 8 provinces across the country with highest impacts in Southern, Central, Eastern, North-western, Western, and Lusaka Provinces. 1 million households have been affected, and the situation has resulted in devastating impacts, with about 1 million hectares of maize field affected out of 2.2 million hectares planted in 2023/2024 season.

Crops especially maize, legumes, grounds nuts, millet, soghum and others are withering due to insufficient moisture content. Water points are drying up making it difficult for people to access safe and clean water for domestic consumption. Pasture is drying up making is difficult for livestock. Price for food items and other basic commodities has continued to rise due to high demand as most community members have to depend on the markets.



The most affected directly are small scale farmers who depend on rainfed cropping, livestock keepers and all community members who depend on natural water bodies and shallow wells for water.

The situation has come at the time when the government shared the Integrated Food Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC) report indicating that in the period October 2023 and March 2024 an average of 2.04 million people are facing food insecurity.



Maize field in Monze District



Affected maize field in Mazabuka District



Staff of ZRCS checking a drought affected field

## Scope and Scale

The current drought has affected 8 provinces across the country, with highest impacts in Southern, Central, Eastern, North-western, Western, and Lusaka Provinces out of the affected provinces. One (1) million households (five (5) million people) have been affected, and the situation has resulted in devastating impacts, with about 1 million hectares of maize field withered out of 2.2 million hectares planted in 2023/2024 season.

Among the most affected districts, Kalabo, Senanga, Sikongo, Shangombo and Sioma of Western province and Zambezi district in North-Western have been hardly hit with a total population of 546,139. These districts are affected by drought and are in IPC phase 4 as highlighted in the above. Lunga, Milengi, Rufunsa, Lupososhi and Mwansabombwe districts with a total population of 247,390 are not affected by the drought but are classified in IPC phase 4. There is a high probability that many districts experiencing drought and in IPC phase 3 and 4 could have graduated to the subsequent IPC phase, that is 4 and 5 respectively.

Predictions according to the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD) 7 days weather bulletin covering the period 2nd March 2024 indicates that there is a 20% probability of recording rainfall exceeding 50mm in the southern half of the country while the northern half has a 50% probability of receiving rainfall exceeding 50mm during the focused period. This entails that the situation in the southern half of the country is likely to continue deteriorating. It is believed that the Northern part of Zambia is accountable for 40% of the total food production of the country, while 60% is from the rest of the provinces that are severely hit by the drought. This entails that the 2023/34 food production will come from the Northern part of the country and will not be sufficient to meet the demand from drought affected provinces.

Coping capacities from farmers are low due to over dependence on rain fed cropping. It is expected that the number of people facing high food insecurity and needing humanitarian assistance will continue rising in the coming months. The Government in collaboration with stakeholders are carrying out rapid assessment to ascertain the levels of the impact and finalise its response plan. A Zambia Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (ZVAC) is planned for March to April this year for better planning of the response and long-term interventions and prevent serious impacts in the next farming season.

## Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
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1. 2023/42 IPC report	<a href="https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Zambia_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Aug2023_Mar2024_Report.pdf">https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Zambia_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Aug2023_Mar2024_Report.pdf</a>
2. Ministerial statement on the rainfall pattern and prolonged dry spells during the 2023/2024 rainy season	<a href="https://www.parliament.gov.zm/sites/default/files/images/publication_docs/MINISTERIAL%20STATEMENT%20BY%20ENG.%20NZOVU.pdf">https://www.parliament.gov.zm/sites/default/files/images/publication_docs/MINISTERIAL%20STATEMENT%20BY%20ENG.%20NZOVU.pdf</a>
3. Drought declaration by the president	<a href="https://www.cen.gov.zm/?p=2078#:~:text=President%20Hichilema%20Declares%20Drought%20National%20Disaster%20March%201,the%20government%20will%20undertake%20to%20ameliorate%20the%20impact">https://www.cen.gov.zm/?p=2078#:~:text=President%20Hichilema%20Declares%20Drought%20National%20Disaster%20March%201,the%20government%20will%20undertake%20to%20ameliorate%20the%20impact</a>

## Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	Yes
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding from DREF for that event(s)	Yes
If yes, please specify which operation	MDRZM012- 2019 to 2021 and MDRZM014, 2022

**If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:**

Zambia has continued to experience extreme weather events such as floods and drought due to the adverse impacts of climate change and climate variability. During the 2018/ 2019 farming season, Zambia experienced low rainfall and prolonged dry spells in most parts of the country that negatively affected the agriculture sector, especially crop and livestock production. The government, through IPC, assessed the impact on society and the economy and the required actions for rehabilitation, recovery and mitigate these impacts. The devastating effects of prolonged dry spells coupled with late onset of the rainy season on agriculture production resulted in reduced food availability and access as well as depletion of seed stocks, contributing to the acute food insecurity conditions experienced across the country. Furthermore, the prolonged dry spells between January and March 2019 affected districts in Southern, Western and parts of Lusaka, Eastern and Central provinces. The food security situation led the National Society to access funds for response through Emergency Appeal that run from 2019 to 2021 in only one District called Kalabo of Western Province.

According to the IPC analysis 2021, from October 2021 to March 2022 which coincided with the lean season that led to the deteriorated food security situation, with around 1.58 million people (13% of the analyzed population) classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3 and above). The most affected provinces were Luapula, Lusaka, North-Western, Northern, Southern and Western. As such, the NS requested for a DREF for the food insecure population which supported in reducing food gaps, protected and restored livelihoods and the same Kalabo District was supported.

In the recent past, in addition to impacts of climate related emergencies, the country has experienced other events such as Anthrax, Cholera, COVID-19, Army Worms and high prices for basic commodities coupled with high poverty levels. This has contributed to an increase in vulnerability and exposure, especially for the lower income households. The current drought is part of the manifestation of the challenges that the country has been facing as the current situation is worse than previous droughts as it has affected the whole Southern half of the country resulting in huge gap in humanitarian needs. The drought is more or less recurrent and the country has been able to meet the needs but now in 2024 it has been unable due to consecutive not so good seasons. The Republican president of Zambia has declared this emergency looking at other scope, scale and other compounding factors that are likely to exacerbate the current situation hence the need for ZRCS to mobilize resources and support the call. The country is at the same time struggling with Cholera outbreak as well as Anthrax whereby lack food and safe water due to drought are likely to worsen the situation.

ZRCS is currently in the process of submitting forecast-based financing (FbF) Early Action Protocol (EAP) for Droughts which is under review by IFRC. Some readiness activities for drought have been conducted in selected districts including Sinazongwe.



## Lessons learned:

The following are some of the key lessons learnt from the past responses:

- There was full engagement of stakeholders from the program's initial stages up to the end, which helped everyone understand the program and showed transparency. This will be replicated in the current to improve coordination and engagement.
- Needs and market assessments are key in informing response options and strategy as they help to focus on appropriate interventions in the community.
- Trained Volunteers and National Disaster Response Teams (NDRTs) played a crucial role in the implementation of the interventions.
- Participatory Beneficiary targeting, selection, registration and validation is key to enhance ownership, participation and sustainability of the response.
- It was learnt that community sensitization messages at the onset of any Project should be concise and clear on the source and proper use of funds. The NS use and engage the community through community meeting at the beginning of the project implementation.
- Development of exist and sustainability plans at the beginning of the operation is key.
- Cash transfer modality has been very effective tool to reaching out to the affected population as in all the previous operations, the markets were fully functional
- In an emergency appeal implementation, the activities for capital investment should be implemented at the beginning of the operation for proper and timely monitoring before the end of the operation. The drought appeal in Kalabo District from 2019 to 2021 had some capital investment on solar powered boreholes where communities are able to do some irrigation activities. This was done towards the end of the operation with limited time to monitor the functionality of the system.
- Timely early warning messages through anticipatory action help farmers to plant drought tolerant seed variety in times of drought.

# Current National Society Actions

## Start date of National Society actions

2023-12-11

<b>Livelihoods And Basic Needs</b>	Following the IPC 2023 report, the NS, through support from the ECHO PPP project, has responded to 2,000 food insecure households in Sioma District of Western province under IPC 4 with multipurpose food distribution.
<b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b>	With the El-nino preparedness efforts by NS and support from NLRC, the NS donated 10,000 of 750mm of liquid chlorine to Ministry of Health for distribution in Cholera hot spot communities for household water treatment. The districts supported in Southern Province include Sinazongwe, Siavonga and Gwembe.
<b>Coordination</b>	<p>After the Presidential declaration on drought in the country, the Government of Zambia through the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit has activated all the relevant clusters at National level such as Food security, Agriculture and livestock, Nutrition, WASH, RCCE, Education, Early recovery, Energy, Logistics and Protection. The NS is a member of other clusters including the National Cash Working group, WASH and protection cluster and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) coordination working Groups. The clusters are currently planning for rapid assessments and development of Response and Recovery plan of which ZRCS is participating.</p> <p>Disaster National Consultative Forum meeting was called for by DMMU and chaired by the Secretary to the Cabinet and NS/IFRC participated in this forum where plans for Drought response were discussed.</p> <p>Currently, the NS responds to Anthrax and Cholera outbreaks through DREF and Cholera Emergency Appeal. The NS/IFRC will ensure coordination between all the DREF/Appeal funded operations through Incident Management Systems (IMS) and the newly established static Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) established by the Cholera Appeal. All the key NS Departments and partners (NLRC and IFRC) will continue holding joint meetings to plan, review and strategize on the ongoing response operations.</p> <p>ZRCS is a member of different DRM structures at different levels, that is provincial</p>



	<p>Disaster Management Committees (PDMC) at provincial level, District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) at District level and Satellite Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) and Welfare Assistance Committee (CWAC) at community level. These will form the basis for better coordination of the response efforts.</p>
<b>National Society Readiness</b>	<p>The NS developed an El-nino Preparedness and Response plan that has been guiding the early actions in some Districts.</p> <p>With support from Netherlands RC, the NS from December 2023 has been conducting early actions for El-nino preparedness in Sinazongwe, Gwembe, Siavonga and Chirundu districts of Southern Province to minimize the anticipated impacts. The focus of early actions was centered around Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) through provision of key early warning messages targeting WASH, Food security, Zoonotic Diseases and PGI/CEA in the high-risk communities.</p> <p>The NS has 50 trained National Disaster Response Team members ready for deployment for support in the response efforts. Some NDRTs are already deployed in support of the Cholera and Anthrax response. The same NDRTs can support the Drought response efforts where Districts overlap.</p> <p>The National Society is planning to distribute NFIs procured and prepositioned under ECHO PPP and Response Preparedness III project. The items include soap, water jerricans and Chlorine.</p> <p>The NS has an agreement with MTN as a CVA mobile money financial service provider and has prequalified suppliers for emergency procurements and updated their procurement manual to accommodate them to avoid delays.</p> <p>The NS has a branch in the Sinazongwe District for the Drought response. ZRCS has a total of 495(male 294 females 201) volunteers in the targeted district. Additionally, the province (s) has a total of 7(6 males and 1 female) NDRTs who be deployed to support the implementation of the proposed response operations.</p>
<b>Assessment</b>	<p>The government has organized a joint rapid assessment in affected districts through the activated clusters, with the ZRCS participating.</p>
<b>Activation Of Contingency Plans</b>	<p>The NS has activated its multi-hazard Contingency Plan (MHCP) of which drought is one of the hazards of focus. The threshold of triggering the MHPC for drought is supposed to be 1,000 households and above that are affected and require immediate assistance. In this case, the NS requires to mobilize resources and activate the plan. According to the presidential declaration for drought, 1 million households are affected and need urgent assistance. Therefore, the NS has activated its MHCP and the Incident Management System (IMS) to facilitate effective and efficient response.</p>
<b>National Society EOC</b>	<p>The NS has activated the static EOC at its Headquarters through the Cholera response which will also incorporate the drought response.</p>

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	<p>The IFRC has 2 country Delegates (Operations Delegates and 1 under CSP program) working closely with the national Society in providing guidance and development of the operation plans. Currently, the IFRC has technical surge supporting the Cholera response, such as WASH, RCCE/CEA, Public Health in Emergencies, PMER Communication and Information management. As part of the ongoing support to NS, the in-country delegate supports the overall technical and strategic management of the operations.</p> <p>IFRC continues to support the ZRCS in putting up systems and tools for emergency preparedness and response in collaboration with NLRC and other external partners such</p>
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	tools include follow up on Preparedness for Effective Response processes as well as development of Early Action Protocols and its activation.
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	The Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC) is the only PNS in country and has been supporting the ZRCS in several response operations, including bilateral support to the previous drought response operations as well as the Cholera Emergency response in 2024. Over the years, the NLRC has supported the National Society in its emergency preparedness and response efforts through its Response and Preparedness project. Currently the NLRC through ECHO PPP is supporting the cash transfer program in Sioma District

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

Currently there is no in- country ICRC delegation in Zambia.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	No
<b>National authorities</b>	<p>The President Mr. Hakainde Hichilema on Thursday 29th February 2024 declared the country to be experiencing drought of which 84 Districts have been triggered. The government through the DMMU has activated the cluster.</p> <p>On 4th March the Government called for stakeholder consultative meeting to discuss the declaration of the emergency and lobby for support from all stakeholders.</p> <p>Dissemination of alerts and early warning messages on EL NINO weather conditions in all the affected areas as per the forecasted information on the rainfall pattern by the meteorological Department.</p> <p>Through an insurance programme, the DMMU has been supporting farmers in the El-Nino affected Districts with seeds to replant *in case of crop failure.</p> <p>The Government through the activated clusters is developing a comprehensive Response and recovery plan for resource mobilization of the response. Rapid assessment is underway to ascertain the magnitude of the problem across the country.</p>
<b>UN or other actors</b>	<p>Other partners and UN agencies are part of the clusters activated and a 5W matrix is being developed for partners to indicated what and where they will be supporting in this response.</p> <p>WFP and Food Agriculture and Livestock together with Red Cross are members of the Food security agriculture and livestock cluster.</p>

**Are there major coordination mechanism in place?**

The Government through the DMMU has activated the clusters related to the drought response such as Health, Food Security and Agriculture, WASH, Energy, logistics, protection and Early recovery. A consultative meeting was organized to agree on the way forward where the Government indicated the clusters have started their meeting to plan for the response.

ZRCS is part of the Food security, WASH, Health. Early recovery and protection clusters

Internally, the NA has also activated the Incident Management system where all partners are meeting to discuss the response in collaboration with the Cholera response team. At District level, the branch and project staff will also be taking part in all coordination forums.



# Needs (Gaps) Identified



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The country faces the worst kind of drought exacerbated by El Niño weather conditions in the 2023/2024 rain season influenced by climate change. The situation has come at a time when 2.04 million people across the country are already facing food insecurity revealed by IPC Report 2023. Some of the drivers to food insecurity includes poor agricultural practices in the face of climate change, floods, high food prices, fall army worms and cassava brown streak disease. The drought has not just affected the availability of food for humans, but livestock and called for immediate support. The probability of having increased food prices and scarcity of food commodities in the market is very high as the whole southern half of Zambia has been affected which accounts for 60% of the total food production of the country. The scarcity of food in the country may also contribute to exacerbation of other problems such as Cholera and Anthrax which have been some of the epidemics the country is struggling with. In the absence of food, people tend to compromise hygiene practices and hence increase in Cholera cases. At the same time, access to game meat and other livestock would be an option to cover up the food shortages hence further spread of Anthrax.

Change and variability are important contributors to the high poverty incidence in rural Zambia which is estimated at 76.6%. Reliance on rainfed agriculture drives the high prevalence of poverty in rural Zambia, and among smallholder farmers. Zambia has witnessed an increase in the incidence of climate shocks such as droughts, seasonal and flash floods, extreme temperatures, and dry spells. These weather extremes have significant knock-on side effects on rural farmers who depend on rain-fed agriculture for their livelihoods.

There is a need to consider the affected households with basic commodities that will protect and restore their livelihoods.

- Currently, Zambia is in the rains season which covers from October to April. However, the dry spell started very early and the level of moisture is low or limited to few areas.
- The dry season in Zambia normally comes around September to November with few rains from October to November.

In general, the Agricultural calendar follows the below calendar:

- Winter cropping is from May - August
- Lean season November - March and this is because there is normally no harvesting.

The dry spell witnessed since January in Zambia has led to the failure of the cropping season for most of the communities. This will have an impact in the coming harvest season while the already IPC3+ communities are dealing with the lean period characterized by no harvesting.



## Health

The health implications of the current drought are numerous and far reaching. Some drought-related health effects are experienced in the short-term and can be directly observed and measured. However, the slow rise or chronic nature of drought can result in longer term, indirect health implications that are not always easy to anticipate or monitor. Some expected impacts are compromised food and nutrition that may include increased malnutrition in affected communities and increased incidence of illness and disease due to poor eating habits and hygiene practices.

Analysis by age groups shows that stunting is highest (46 percent) in children 18–23 months and lowest (19 percent) in children under six months. Children in rural areas (36 percent) are more likely to be stunted than those in urban areas (32 percent). At the provincial level, Northern has the highest percentage of stunted children (46 percent), followed by Luapula (45 percent). Levels of stunting are lowest in Western and Southern provinces (29 percent each).

The current food insecurity might worsen the situation in all the affected Districts, hence need for interventions to address the gaps.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The dry spell that has affected the country has resulted in the water table lowering resulting in water stress and boreholes drying up as we approach the next rainy season. The surface and ground water have been affected, including rivers, shallow wells, streams and boreholes, leading to insufficient clean and safe water for domestic, livestock and agriculture use. Currently there are issues around water contamination, hence the cholera outbreak and other waterborne diseases. There is likelihood of conflict over water use and the competing needs for human and agricultural and livestock consumption and some transboundary issues will have to be managed. There are reports that the Kariba dam levels will continue to reduce, and this will affect the electricity generation for both Zimbabwe and





Zambia. Farmers may lose their animals, which affects their livelihood and social well-being. The communities will need to be supported with improved water supply sources, WASH non-food commodities, hygiene promotion and household water treatment. It is important to note that during drought, both surface and underground water sources are affected, hence the importance of establishing resilient water networks remains a challenge and can only be addressed through medium to long term actions. It would then be vital that the assessments done in the selected provinces be used to support lobbying for fundraising campaigns and be incorporated in the current One WASH plans.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The impact of disaster affects the social groups differently. Increased economic hardships due to drought that can lead to food insecurity for example has the potential to affect these sub-groups (women and children, People with Disabilities-PWD) through social exclusion and marginalization, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) including child labor. Scarcity in resources during emergencies creates tensions and heightens the risks of sexual and gender-based violence mostly for girls and women. The underlying causes of violence are associated with attitudes, beliefs, norms and structures that promote and/or condone gender-based discrimination and unequal power dynamics. In the face of drought and loss of livelihoods, those entrusted to protect girls and young women can be the ones that endanger their lives and wellbeing. As a way of coping with the economic pressure, women and girls are most likely to engage into negative coping mechanism such as prostitution to make ends meet which can lead to the spread of HIV. There is also a high probability of men migrating to other areas in search of food and leave their families vulnerable.

PGI will be incorporated in this response to ensure protection and inclusion of different groups of marginalized people in decision making and overall response interventions.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

Consideration of Risk Community Communication and Engagement (RCCE) is vital in an emergency response. The current drought situation requires community engagement in ensuring people have enough knowledge on all the key pillars, that is Food security, WASH, Health and PGI. Community engagement is needed for information and programme implementation as well as the establishment of genuine two-way communication or community feedback systems to make the operation effective. The drought response will ensure the facilitation of community engagement, understand the communities, and translate risk into locally appropriate ways of addressing the needs as per the pillars of the operation. The RCCE and CEA will focus on the following key aspects in each pillar of the response:

- For Food insecurity - proper management in terms of conservation and preservation of the little food stocks available to the affected households to avoid wastage and prevent malnutrition.
- For WASH- RCCE on proper use of available water sources to avoid a situation of not having any water sources within reach which may result into serious water borne disease outbreak or increase the spread of the Cholera outbreak already in most Districts as well as generating community conflicts.

## Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Currently there is no assessments done apart from the IPC report that was based on Zambia Vulnerability Assessment. A joint rapid assessment has been planned that will help in adjusting the plans to address the actual gaps in the response. The Government is also planning to do a ZVAC earlier than the normal period to ascertain the levels of the impact and determine the way forward on the response. It is anticipated that serious impact of the drought will be felt around June moving forward.

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

This DREF aims at supporting 32,000 households (160,000 people) affected by drought in Gwembe and Sinazongwe districts of Southern province provinces by providing support around Food Security and livelihoods, Health and WASH. Additionally, the strategy will integrate community engagement and accountability/RCCE, as well as protection Gender and inclusion across all sectors, for the overall operational timeframe of 6 months. In six months' time, a lessons learnt workshop is planned to review the operation lessons in collaboration with the ZCAC results update the operation as per the newly identified gaps in support especially on resilience building and sustainable interventions to avoid serious recurrence of the problem.

ZRCS will conduct a detailed assessment to identify the actual needs, gaps of the affected population and mapping of key actors per



intervention pillar. The assessment will also capture information on the needs and priorities of different community groups, preferred communication channels for receiving information and giving feedback, community social and power dynamics.

An overall 86 districts across the country are currently affected but due to limited financial resources, the ZRCS will, through this operation, focus its response on complementing actions already provided by the Government and its partners through supporting one district.

## Operation strategy rationale

The NS with support from NLRC, conducted some early actions in selected Districts, Sinazongwe, Chirundu, Siyavonga and Gwembe Districts of Southern Province. The actions aimed at minimising the impacts of drought worsened by the anticipated El Niño. The focus areas were Food Insecurity, WASH and Animal Disease prevention (Zoonotic disease), Protection Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA).

Following the declaration of the Drought emergency, ZRCS is aiming at addressing the immediate needs of the targeted group through this DREF request which will be followed by a detailed assessment to ascertain the gaps in the affected District. An operation update will be produced to adjust the DREF intervention that will aim at supporting the early recovery efforts. After a period of six months, another operations update will be produced following the Zambia Vulnerability Capacity Assessment report (ZVAC) and the Integrated Food Insecurity phase classification (IPC) report as well as lessons learnt to adjust the interventions for longer term solutions in the targeted districts.

This slow onset DREF strategy will be to respond to the situation by providing immediate and short-term support as well as early and long-term recovery across the identified key sectors of priority at each phase. Since this is a slow onset disaster, a detailed assessment will be done to identify gaps and needs and update the operation to integrate the identified gaps backed by evidence. The operations update will follow as per detailed below to define the next activities phase in accordance with the ongoing weather and agricultural calendar or early recovery phase. The NS will also consider the Government response plan under development in building the adequate and coordinated actions for the next phase. This makes the current plan revisable as follows:

- A first update to be done following the assessment by April.
- A 6 month operational update by September to inform on progress and adjust/refine the transition/exit strategy depending on the proposed next phase intervention and adequate early recovery actions that are coordinated with Government response plan and active partners. This will also define the clear approach and actions for long term planning.

The following are the strategies to be used per pillar:

Food security and Livelihoods:

- Emergency cash support to IPC3+

To address the immediate food needs, ZRCS will conduct a market assessment to ascertain the functionality of the markets for multipurpose cash transfer support to vulnerable households in the affected Districts. If the markets are functional and food is available, the targeted households will be provided with cash for food through mobile money transfer. ZRCS has a valid FSP agreement with the mobile service provider, MTN. If markets aren't functional, ZRCS will consider other options such as procurement and distribution of relief food (in-kind support). ZRCS will support with training in Climate Agriculture and provision of drought tolerant seeds and other farm inputs to selected vulnerable households to sustain their livelihoods through winter cropping where there are enough water sources.

- Support of food production:

To sustain the general availability of food in the community, the cash distribution will be complemented with in-kind provision to small farmers. These actions will aim to strengthen the food production with benefit of the rains were it still witnessed in some locations. This activity will learn from the climate effect on the crops witnessed in the communities currently. As such, the approach will be to provide both adapted seed drought resistant even if targeting the areas where there is still moisture in dumbbell areas. The detailed assessment will include the identification of the areas and the right culture and seeds that match the context of the communities and reality of climate (level of moisture and weather projections).

- Ensure training and continuous engagement of communities on key climate-smart agricultural practices (longer-implementation duration).

This intervention can only be sustainable and impactful with adequate ownership on the Climate smart agriculture and relevant cropping/harvesting technique. Hence, the plan is to ensure the training is provided to the farmers targeted and continuous monitoring from the distribution to the harvesting to see the impact of the assistance and build learnings for the next phase.

- Next phase of the livelihood, the NS will be looking into similar support to farmers for the next winter/rainy cropping season. The detailed assessment results, next IPC and priority of Government response plan will guide on the continuity of this support.

ZRCS intervention will give some impulsion to the market system. The various procurement of seeds, in-kind and WASH made by the operation or the families assisted by cash will involve directly the local network of sellers and other actors of the food and agricultural structure. ZRCS will prioritize the local markets and ensure engaging those actors to take part of these actions and beneficiaries to use the local market. This will impulse the drivers of the economic activity in the market.



#### WASH:

Considering the drought that has been experienced, most water sources are drying up and accessibility to both safe and unsafe water sources is expected to deteriorate in most of the affected Districts. The NS in the immediate and short term will support the affected households with WASH items such as Chlorine for household water treatment, water storage containers and soap for hygiene promotion. For short-term support, chlorination at the point of collection source will be provided by trained volunteers. Volunteers will be trained and support door-to-door activities and use the PA system for hygiene promotion activities. ZRCS will ensure collaboration and coordination of interventions under Cholera Emergency Appeal.

Broken boreholes in targeted district will be rehabilitated. including training in water management committees and link them with local authorities for institutional support.

NS will cover the hygiene promotions tackling the essential escalating factors of food insecurity such as diseases, poor food management and nutrition behaviors, water management etc. Volunteers deployed in the field will cover the hygiene promotion and the messages through radio and the use of IEC material. The objective is to reach a minimum 160,000 people with messages that will prevent a deterioration of the food insecurity induced by drought in the communities due to diseases, lack of adequate WASH facilities/practices etc. The engagement of local leaders, representative will contribute to the communication strategy around the incidence of poor hygiene and health on the food insecurity escalation.

#### Health and Nutrition:

The current drought situation is expected to have health impacts due to inadequate food availability, accessibility, stability and utilization in most households that will result in poor nutrition status especially to the vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, under-five children and the chronically ill.

This response will also focus on working with Ministry of Health at all levels to identify the key health impacts and support with social mobilization efforts through training volunteers in CBHFA focusing on Nutrition who will be supporting in identification (Community Based Surveillance), education and referral of malnourished children to the health facilities from their respective communities and provision of food supplements to the severely malnourished children. Nutrition education activities will be ongoing with volunteers through drama, cooking demonstrations and promotion of backyard gardens in areas where water is available. ZRCS will coordinate Nutrition activities with UN agencies i.e. UNICEF and WFP in addition to working with Ministry of Health at all levels.

#### Community Engagement Accountability:

ZRCS has a CEA focal person who will spearhead the activities using the systems already set on community feedback. In some of the affected Districts, volunteers are trained in CEA and refresher training will be conducted using already set up systems. Feedback and complaints will be collected through community volunteers, community meetings, focus group discussions and suggestion boxes and responses provided through community meetings. In addition, A hot line (7373) has been established from a local network provider for the purpose of receiving community feedback and identify rumors and misconceptions associated with support provided. Community engagement in the response will be ensured through timely sharing of clear information about response activities, selection criteria and distribution processes with communities through community meetings and assessments. All sensitive feedback will be dealt with one on one by CEA focal point person who will closely be in tandem with the national CEA protocols and committee. CEA will be integrated in all the phases of the operation.

#### Protection Gender and Inclusion:

The ZRCS intends to provide support to the affected population with consideration on Protection Gender and inclusion. The interventions including identification of beneficiaries for cash transfer and distribution of items will consider the inclusion. Volunteers and staff will also be oriented on mainstreaming PGI throughout the operation.

#### Coordination:

ZRCS has an internal coordination mechanism through the Incident Management System which has already been activated by the current Cholera appeal response. The Drought response will be integrated in the same mechanism as it comprises of all NS Department's and partners (IFRC and NLRC). NS will work closely with affected branches and volunteers through National Disaster Response Teams that will be deployed to the targeted branches.

Externally, collaboration and coordination will be with Government and UN agencies through the activated clusters and structures at District level to avoid duplication of efforts and ensuring that aid is provided to all vulnerable populations.

## Targeting Strategy

[Targeting Strategy Supporting Document](#)



## Who will be targeted through this operation?

Direct target for the main intervention (FSL, Nutrition, WASH) is 25,000 people but WASH and health promotions and services services (educative sessions, hygiene promotions, health prevention, water points) will aimed to reach 160,000 people using volunteers and media.

The response efforts will encompass a wide range of specific target groups, including but not limited to pregnant- women, children, farmers, and the elderly, chronically ill and female and child headed households affected with this drought situation. Additionally, the response will extend to the general population, ensuring that a comprehensive and inclusive approach is adopted. By addressing the needs of various special groups and the broader community, our goal is to provide effective support and protection to the current food insecurity. This approach aims to leave no one behind and mitigate the drought's impact on all segments of the district's population. The response will target the whole District population with health and hygiene promotion (RCCE) messages and 4,000 households (20,000 people) with food security/livelihood and WASH interventions.

ZRCS plans to prioritize actions in Sinazongwe District which is one of the very high-risk districts across the country based on historical data, latest seasonal forecasts, and current vulnerabilities and IPC Report 2023. Joint assessments are underway to determine the situation moving forward and the plans can be adjusted at any point in time when assessments have been concluded.

## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The National Society will aim to reach 20,000 people with Food Security and Livelihood, WASH/Health, and 160,000 people with other Cross cutting interventions. These sectors are the ones negatively impacted by the drought situation being experienced. Food is expected to be scarce and expensive; the water supply will be inadequate and expected to be unsafe for a significant proportion of the population. While the general economic status is already compromised, drought is likely to worsen the livelihood situation as majority are small holder farmers who rely on rainfed crop production, ill vices such as Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) are expected to escalate as well.

Key population of focus in this operation will be child and female headed households, the elderly, pregnant and lactating and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), chronically ill people as they are they highly vulnerable to such shocks for specific activities such as cash transfer program and distribution of items. Criteria for targeting beneficiaries on the program by the government guidelines and the process shall be coordinated by Government Ministries and Departments in collaboration with the NS following the laid down procedures and policies such as PGI and code of conduct. Health and hygiene promotion activities will target the whole population in all the targeted Districts. Vigorous and thorough assessments will be undertaken to ensure the most affected communities and population areas are given priority.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	75,955	Rural	47%
Girls (under 18)	6,605	Urban	53%
Men	71,400	People with disabilities (estimated)	5%
Boys (under 18)	6,040		
Total targeted population	160,000		

## Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Increased levels of malnutrition especially among children below the age of 5 years	Support MoH in child nutrition intervention: a) Nutrition screening using MUAC and referrals by volunteers. b) Provision of supplementary feeding (where feasible.) c) Promotion of exclusive breast feeding by volunteers.



Further spread of the Cholera and Anthrax (zoonotic diseases) outbreak due to inadequate water supply for personal and domestic hygiene	Ensure coordination of the interventions for drought and epidemics. Joint planning and monitoring with key stakeholders such as MoH, MoA, Ministry of livestock and Fisheries (MoLF) and DMMU.
Increase in cross cutting issues such as SGBV, HIV, crime due to souring economic condition.	Incorporation of cross cutting issues in the whole operation and capacity strengthening of staff and volunteers on the same.
Non functionality of markets and increase in basic food commodities prices	Explore possibility of in-kind food distribution Provide cash where markets are functional.
Worsening Food insecurity	Training of farmers in food preservation and conservation for improved nutrition. Support smart agriculture and provision of farm inputs.
Currency fluctuation	Transferring funds to NS in foreign currency.

### Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Currently the country is stable with no concerns reported. In the targeted District, ZRCS is implementing a project and no security concerns have been reported.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

## Planned Intervention



### Livelihoods And Basic Needs

**Budget:** CHF 74,174

**Targeted Persons:** 5,000

### Indicators

Title	Target
# of people reached with farm inputs.	800
# of farmers trained in smart agriculture.	800
# of people trained in food preservation.	800
# of monitoring visits conducted during implementation of livelihood activities.	6

### Priority Actions

- Procurement and distribution of drought tolerant seeds and farm inputs for winter cropping in areas where there is water
- Transportation of farming inputs to Sinazongwe
- Training of 800 farmers in Climate smart agriculture
- Identification and registration of beneficiaries for smart agriculture
- Training of 1000 farmers in food preservation





## Multi Purpose Cash

**Budget:** CHF 340,888

**Targeted Persons:** 20,000

### Indicators

Title	Target
# and percentage of households receiving cash transfers who are satisfied with the amount received.	4,000
# of Post Distribution Monitoring conducted.	1
#r of Markets and needs assessments Conducted.	1
% of recipients reporting that the support was provided in a timely manner and was relevant in relieving them during the emergency period.	80
% of households receiving cash transfers who are satisfied with the time/period during which the cash was received.	80
% of households who report being able to meet the basic needs of their households, according to their priorities.	80

### Priority Actions

- Conduct market and Needs assessment in the affected districts.
- Procurement of SIM cards for 4000 house holds
- Conduct registration & validation of 4000 beneficiaries in the affected Districts.
- Cash Distribution to 4000HH/800 ZMW Per month for 3 months
- Support cash distribution activities.
- Pay FSP Transaction fees for cash disbursements.
- Conduct post distribution monitoring to check utilization of the distributed cash at least 10 days after the distribution.



## Health

**Budget:** CHF 41,662

**Targeted Persons:** 600

### Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers trained in CBHFA and Community Based Surveillance.	100
# of malnourished conditions reported by the volunteers.	500
# of volunteers trained in child nutrition interventions (MUAC screening, Infant and Young Child Feeding).	100
# of children screened using MUAC under the support of the response.	500
% of Children referred for further management (screened with support from ZRCS).	10
# of children benefiting from food supplements provided by ZRCS.	500



#of cooking demonstrations conducted.	200
# of people reached with Health promotion messages by volunteers	25,000
# of backyard gardens established.	500

## Priority Actions

- Training of 100 volunteers in CBHFA focusing on Health promotion in emergencies and nutrition
- Training 100 volunteers in CBS
- Support 100 volunteers in conducting health promotion through drama and cooking demonstrations
- Promotion of establishment of backyard gardens
- Follow up on child nutrition through growth monitoring including MUAC screening and promotion including.
- Procure and distribute food supplements to 500 under-five children in collaboration with MOH (after assessments).



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 98,120

**Targeted Persons:** 20,000

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of households supported with water storage containers.	4,000
# of chlorine bottles distribute for household water treatment.	24,000
# of soap tablets distributed.	4,000
# of water points rehabilitated and functional.	20
# of IEC material produced.	10,000
# of IEC material distributed.	10,000
% of people (and households) that have access to sufficient safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality in the response period.	30

## Priority Actions

- Procurement and distribution of soap, water storage containers and Chlorine
- Assessment and rehabilitation of 20 water points(boreholes) - quick interventions
- Training of 100 volunteers in Hygiene promotion
- Support 100 volunteers to conduct hygiene promotion for 3 months.
- Production and distribution of 10000 IEC materials on hygiene
- Training of water point committees in management of the water points



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 5,451

**Targeted Persons:** 110



## Indicators

Title	Target
# of Volunteers trained in PGI, GBV and PSEA.	100
# staff signing code of conduct.	10
# of volunteers signed code of conduct.	100
# of referral pathways established.	20

## Priority Actions

- Training of 100 volunteers in PGI, GBV and PSEA
- Orientation and signing of code of conduct by staff and volunteers
- Volunteers and staff participate in protection cluster meetings
- Establishment and strengthening of referral pathways for GBV



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 8,955

**Targeted Persons:** 160,000

## Indicators

Title	Target
% of community feedback received & responded to.	80
#volunteers/staff trained in CEA/RCCE.	100
# of people reached with messages on the response.	160,000
Proportion (percentage) of HH who gave feedback that support provided by ZRCS met their needs.	90
% of community members who say they trust the information and services provided by ZRCS about health, nutrition, livelihoods and disaster risk reduction.	80

## Priority Actions

- Training of 100 volunteers in CEA and Setting up feedback mechanisms using hotline
- Support volunteers to collect feedback in the communities.
- Support information dissemination through door to door, local radio, TV, social media and use of PA system on the drought response interventions



## Coordination And Partnerships

**Budget:** CHF 17,288

**Targeted Persons:** 100





## Indicators

Title	Target
# of visibility materials distributed	100
#of workshops conducted.	1
# of meetings conducted.	1

## Priority Actions

- Procurement of visibility materials
- Conduct lessons learnt workshop
- Introduction meeting in the district to introduce the project



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 39,482

**Targeted Persons:** 3

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of surge deployed.	1
Monitoring visits	3

## Priority Actions

- Deployment of Surge livelihood coordinator
- Operational costs
- Monitoring visits



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 124,440

**Targeted Persons:** 153

## Indicators

Title	Target
# of volunteers insured.	100
# of monitoring visits conducted.	3
# of NDRT deployed.	1
#of people attending lessons learnt workshop.	30
# of staff recruited.	3



## Priority Actions

- Deploy and support 1 NDRTs.
- Recruitment of one Project officer and 2 field officers
- Conduct 3 Monitoring visits to the affected communities by HQ.
- Procurement of visibility materials
- Conduct a Lessons Learnt workshop
- Payment for 100 volunteers' insurance

## About Support Services

### How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

At least 100 volunteers will be deployed from the targeted District with one Project officer employed and 2 field officers for Sinazongwe District to support the implementation of the operation. The Disaster Management Department remain with full responsibility of the overall operation, The PMER will support with monitoring and reporting. Profiling of the operations will be supported by the existing communications department. The Branch Development Manager will support with Branch coordination and CEA Officer will support with Community engagement and setting up of a complaint and feedback mechanism.

### Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

Food security and livelihood surge will be deployed to support the overall management of the operation on the IFRC side and the rest of the sectors will be supported by the National society and in country delegates.

### If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

The NS has some prepositioned stocks on WASH NFI such as soap, jerricans for water storage and chlorine in their warehouse which they are distributing and will need replenishment. The NS just updated their procurement manual that have incorporated the emergency procurement which doesn't require tender committee to sit but rather use the prequalified suppliers for some items.

The NS also has an ongoing agreement with MTN as a mobile money Financial Service Provider (FSP) and in the process of engaging another supplier.

### How will this operation be monitored?

The PMER Department will consolidate the indicators listed in the operations plan to help monitor the effectiveness of the implementation of this operation. The first three months of the operation, monthly monitoring will be conducted in the project district by the district team, HQ PMER and program staff and quarterly thereafter to ensure the project is in conformity with the operational strategy and Plan of Action. Data collection and monitoring tools will be developed at the beginning of the operation and volunteers oriented on the use of the tools. Planning meeting will be conducted every quarter to check on progress and plan for the coming period which will also include review of budget during the operations update. An indicator tracking table will be developed at the beginning of the operation for easy tracking of progress and reporting.

The NS will do an operation update one month after of the operation based on the rapid assessment done, second update will be done after 6 months and the third one after another six months to inform on the changes of the strategy and budgets. At the end of the operation, a lesson learnt workshop will be organized involving teams at the National, Provincial, district and communities to brainstorm what worked well, what didn't work well, recommendations and areas of improvement. A final report will be produced at the end of the operation showing the key achievements of the operation as well as lessons learnt.

The In-Country Delegate direct responsible for providing technical and strategic guidance will support in monitoring.

### Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The Communications Team will come up with the communications plan for the operation. Generally, the NS has activated its IMS and the EOC. Most of the communication with ZRCS and partners (IFRC and NLRC) will be communicated through this platform. Communications



with Non-Movement Partners and stakeholders will be done through clusters. Profiling of the operation will be done through radio and TV programmes as well as social media platforms.



# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

**MDRZM022 - ite**  
**Drought Response DREF**

### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>569,250</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	74,174
Multi-purpose Cash	340,888
Health	41,662
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	98,120
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	5,451
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	8,955
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>181,209</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	17,288
Secretariat Services	39,482
National Society Strengthening	124,440
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>750,459</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*



# Contact Information

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[Click here for the reference](#)

