



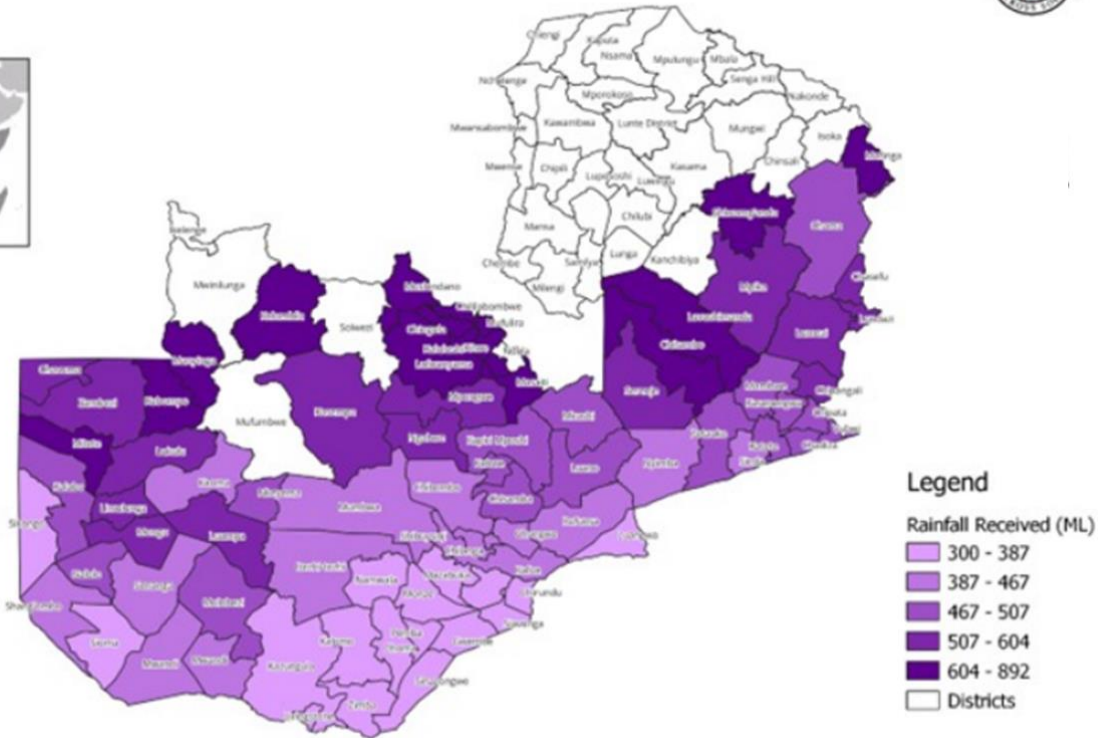
Zambia Red Cross staff engaging a family affected by drought in Kabwe district, Central province.

Appeal No: MDRZM022	IFRC Secretariat funding requirements: CHF 8 million Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 11 million¹	
Glide No: DR-2024-000018-ZMB	People at risk: 6.6 million	People to be assisted: 476,448
DREF allocation: CHF 900,000	Appeal launched: 23/05/24	Appeal ends: 30/06/2025

¹ The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Zambia Red Cross Society in response to the emergency. It includes the Zambia Red Cross' domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (CHF 3 million), as well as the funding requirements of the IFRC Secretariat (CHF 8 million). This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilised to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.



Drought-affected Districts



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Zambia is currently experiencing a serious humanitarian crisis from frequent droughts, floods and heat waves driven by climate change. These disaster risks are affecting the country's poorest communities, especially in rural areas, which rely on rainfall for agriculture. These dry spells, compounded by the El Niño effect, are driving overall increasing severity of food insecurity.

Currently, 84 out of the 116 districts in Zambia are affected by this. The drought has impacted crops and livestock, with an impact too on overall water access and sanitation, and even issues like education. Government data suggests that over 1 million hectares of cropland have been affected, ranging from outright crop failure to significant drop in yields. This current drought crisis is potentially the worst that the country has experienced to date, and February 2024 was the driest and hottest month since 1981. On 29 February

2024, the President of Zambia declared a national emergency due to both prolonged drought and a recent cholera outbreak.

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) released in November 2023 projected that Zambia would have more than 2 million people at IPC3 or above by March 2024, while recent rapid assessment, and the President's Drought Response Appeal on 16 April 2024, indicated that 6.6 million people are now in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

Most affected in this crisis are Western, Central, Lusaka, Southern and Eastern provinces, and in March 2024 a rapid assessment coordinated by the Government and carried out by the Zambia Food Security Cluster revealed that households are struggling to meet their basic needs, including for food, with many resorting to negative coping mechanisms. Although the

majority of households reported that they cultivated maize (99 percent) and other crops in the 2023/2024 season, projected production levels are minimal, and most households are reporting total crop failure particularly due to the prolonged dry spells.

Likewise, livestock and fisheries have been equally affected due to the drying of water sources, with 44 percent of surveyed households that keep livestock reporting reduced pasture especially for cattle, while 39 percent reported increased distance to water points.

Drought has affected overall food availability too, as revealed by assessment of local food markets, which shows significant shortages of key commodities. This low supply, at a time when demand is increasing, is driving up food prices, which in turn impacts overall food access due to reduced household purchasing power. Most of the households surveyed during the government rapid assessment (45.7 percent) reported having food stocks for one month, while 5.7 percent had already depleted their stocks.

The country is still recovering from a cholera outbreak² which began in October 2023, and produced over 21,000 cases, considering due to decreased access to water, which can lead to outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases as well as other vector-borne diseases. Zambia has regions that are also prone to malaria, which could spike once bodies of water and watercourses start drying up and creating conducive breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

TARGETING

In response to the escalating situation, and in line with the Zambian Government's National Drought Response Plan, ZRCS aims to scale up activities and geographical coverage to better address the new and increasing needs of affected populations. This Emergency Appeal thus targets 476,448 people and aims to reduce the negative impacts of drought and contribute to improvement of food security, improve hygiene and health behaviours and improve nutrition status of children under the age of five.

The overall decreased access to water thus threatens not only human lives but could also lead to increased protection risks for women and children as distances and time necessary to fetch water increase. Female-headed households and adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable to increased violence, exploitation and abuse.

With the support of its partners, the Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS) has been able to contribute to the Government's response as follows:

- In March 2024, IFRC released CHF 750,000 from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to support 32,000 households (160,000 people) with emergency relief through multi-purpose cash grants, livelihood support through smart agriculture initiatives, nutrition education and promotion of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).
- ZRCS distributed cash to 3,000 households in IPC4 district, Sioma, for three months as part of emergency response for the ECHO Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP).
- ZRCS is also part of clusters activated by the Government through its Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU).
- ZRCS's internal 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.

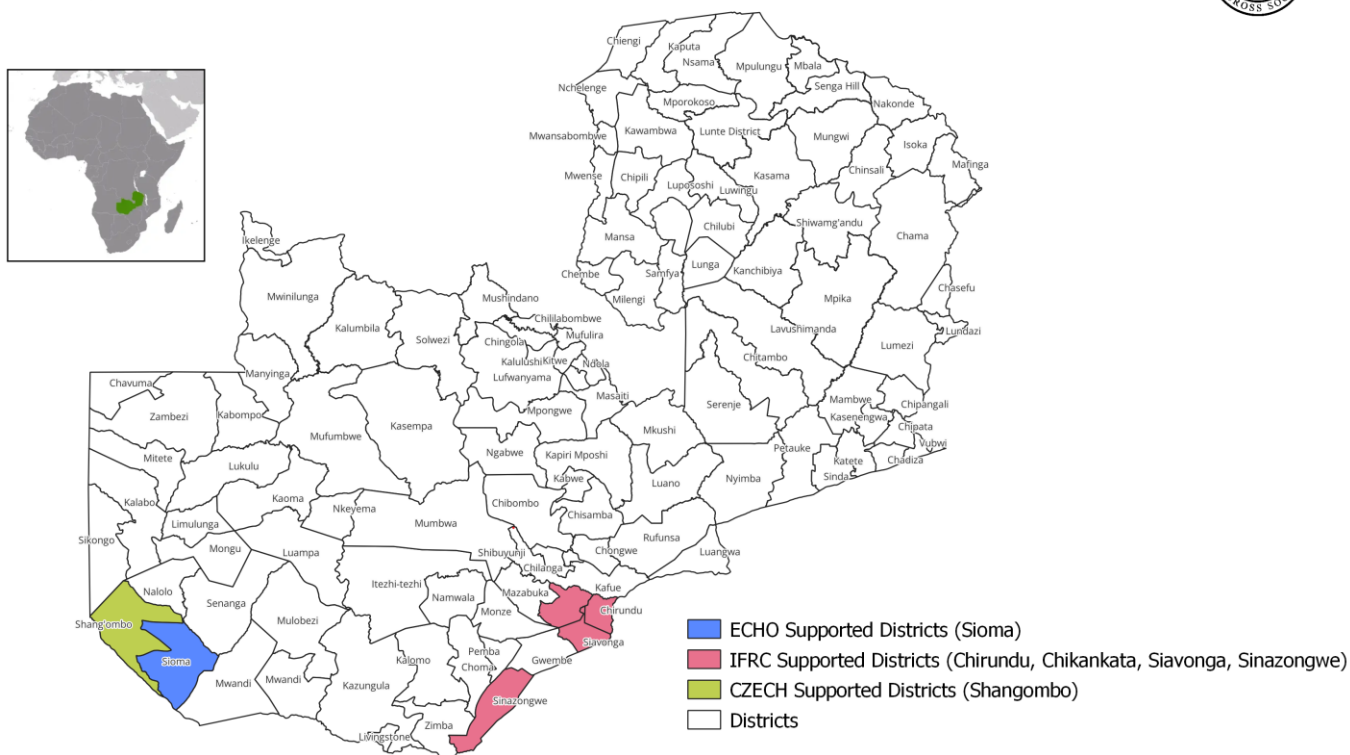
² Current EA for Cholera in Zambia

<https://www.ifrc.org/emergency/zambia-cholera-outbreak>

The southern half of the country has been particularly affected, especially the Southern, Western, Central and Eastern provinces, and parts of Copper Belt and North-western provinces. Through this EA, ZRCS also aims to scale-up its response currently ongoing through the DREF and additionally target Sinazongwe, Siavonga, Chirundu and Chikankata districts in Southern province, and Shangombo district in Western province. This is based on coordination mechanisms set up by government and information provided by other stakeholders on potential areas of intervention. The activities under this Emergency Appeal will be closely coordinated with the ongoing cholera response and other drought activities also being implemented by partners.



Districts Targeted in the Response to Food Insecurity



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or the National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.
Map created by Zambia Red Cross Society



The targeted populations in the named districts will be prioritized based on the level of vulnerability as well as risk factors contributing to food insecurity, WASH and health-related risks including malnutrition for children. The ZRCS will prioritize the most vulnerable small-scale farmers affected by drought, children under the age of five, pregnant and lactating women, and communities in areas with poor WASH conditions. The Emergency Appeal will also address other vulnerable groups including disabled people and those with chronic illnesses.



Overall, this Emergency Appeal aims to target 52 percent of households urgently requiring assistance in the five targeted districts, as indicated in the table below. This will be about 22,000 households, enumerated by the Government through its Ministry of Local Government, with cash transfer interventions to meet food needs. The other components of the response will target all 476,448 people in the five districts on nutrition (including children under the age of five), health, WASH, agriculture, Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) and other cross-cutting issues.



District	Population	Population in need	Number of households in need	Targeting of households and people in need	Percentage of the targeted households in need
Shangombo	73,822	47,178	7,864	3,932	50
Sinazongwe	159,055	82,872	13,812	7,761	56
Chirundu	78,780	31,899	5,316	2,658	50
Siavonga	66,030	25,676	4,279	2,140	50
Chikankata	98,671	66,110	11,018	5,509	50
Totals	476,448	253,735	42,289	22,000	52

PLANNED OPERATIONS


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



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

	<p>PILLAR 1: FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-purpose cash or voucher assistance (CVA). Life-sustaining, immediate assistance, including multi-purpose cash transfers to address acute food insecurity in affected households. • Securing livelihoods through climate-smart agriculture, provision of farming inputs and tools to enable households to 'bounce back' from the drought shock; awareness raising; information dissemination (agronomic, seasonal forecasts, etc.); training in good, climate-proofed agronomic practices; linkages to essential services such as government extension services; and the strengthening of community safety nets. This component will complement existing safety net/social protection systems. • Emergency livestock management: Livestock-based interventions aimed at the protection of existing household assets such as supplementary feeding and fodder management.
	<p>PILLAR 2: HEALTH AND NUTRITION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrition surveillance and health promotion through nutrition monitoring, especially among vulnerable populations where children are at risk of acute malnutrition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing nutrition education and access to essential health services with a strong focus on nutrition awareness and education, particularly on feeding practices for infants and young children.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provision of food supplements to malnourished children through the Ministry of Health and school feeding programmes. ○ Integrate rehabilitation of boreholes with nutrition-sensitive agricultural activities e.g. nutrition gardens. ● Providing community-based health and hygiene promotion and preventive services.
	<p>PILLAR 3: WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improving access to clean and safe water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH), which are essential for maintaining health, food security and livelihoods, through the rehabilitation of key water supply infrastructure, in addition to providing in-kind water treatment products and storage solutions. ● Supporting water infrastructure improvements to nutrition kitchens (in support of school feeding programmes). ● Capacity building for communities and institutions to adopt water saving techniques and integrated use approaches.
	<p>CROSS-CUTTING SECTORS</p> <p>Risk Reduction, climate adaptation, resilience and Recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitation on information dissemination platforms for sharing of agronomic extension messages, early warning and weather information. ● Promote adaptation to climate change; and collaboration on climate-related disaster risks by facilitating preparedness and supporting communities to adapt to climate change and build resilience. ● Development and adaptation of mechanisms, strategies, systems and tools to enhance disaster preparedness and response coordination. <p>Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI): The Emergency Appeal will address PGI considerations based on the PGI Minimum Standards for each of its envisaged activities to ensure that there is a dignified, safe, accessible and participatory approach, including engagement of people at risk of increased SGBV, and inclusion of persons with disabilities, and children in the response.</p> <p>Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA): Ensuring the engagement and involvement of all stakeholders, especially the affected communities, through close consultation throughout the response, and conducting regular surveys with communities to assess their views and satisfaction with the services provided and adapt the response accordingly.</p>

Enabling approaches

	<p>COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitate coordination among RCRC partners, through IMS meetings and ECO systems set up during the Cholera response.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the response is coordinated with various stakeholders including international organizations and embassies to support the joint government response. • There will be enhanced cross-border collaboration between other National Societies in countries that have drought emergencies within the region. • Support cross-border cooperation for displaced or nomadic populations. • Stakeholder coordination at national, provincial and district levels including other partners providing complimentary services. • IFRC has also been in close coordination with regional structures, particularly Southern African Development Community (SADC), to ensure a coordinated approach to the regional response, and is also exploring the potential of a joint approach.
	<p>IFRC SECRETARIAT SERVICES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFRC will facilitate an effective Federation-wide response through support from the IFRC Harare Country Cluster Delegation and Africa Regional Office. IFRC will provide technical support and expertise in food security and livelihoods, and IM, and will also support ZRCS with strong risk management and business continuity plans. • Humanitarian Diplomacy: a communication working group for Movement members in-country (ZRCS, Netherlands Red Cross [NLRC] and IFRC) will be activated and coordinated by ZRCS to focus on scaling-up visibility.
	<p>NATIONAL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Society will receive capacity strengthening during the response in a way that protects and strengthens their short- and longer-term goals; ensuring ZRCS is not harmed, and their development is not negatively affected by the international support they receive. The position of the National Societies toward public authorities is strengthened as is the trust within communities. Volunteers engaged in operations receive the necessary support, training and duty of care. • The Operation will continue to invest in the organizational strengthening of the National Society and facilitate capacity building and organizational development objectives to ensure that they have the necessary legal and financial foundations, systems and structures, competencies and capacities to respond. • The volunteer duty of care will be strengthened through phone applications for data collection and timely reporting and analysis.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy, to be released in the coming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, which includes response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

After 30 June 2025, response activities to this disaster will continue under the [IFRC Network Zambia Country Plan for 2025](#). The IFRC Network Country Plans show an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's action. This aims to streamline activities under one plan, while still ensuring

that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in time, should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned time.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY



Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS)

Core areas of operation	
Number of staff:	66
Number of volunteers:	7,857
Number of branches	60

The Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS) was established in 1966 by an act of the Zambian Parliament. ZRCS is Zambia's largest humanitarian organization, and its mandate is to compliment the Government's efforts in the alleviation of human suffering. ZRCS has branches in all 10 provinces of the country and 60 districts. In its auxiliary role to the Government, ZRCS supports development and response to humanitarian crises. It is guided by its strategic goals for 2030, which focus on:

- GOAL 1: People anticipate, respond to and quickly recover from crises.
- GOAL 2: People lead safe, healthy and dignified lives, and have opportunities to thrive.
- GOAL 3: People mobilize for inclusive and peaceful communities.

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC Secretariat, which provides technical and financial support to ZRCS through the IFRC Harare Country Cluster Delegation, will play an essential role in ensuring effective coordination within and outside the Movement. The Netherlands Red Cross provides bilateral support to ZRCS in emergency response. It participates in coordination meetings held in-country and will provide its expertise to support this response. Through the ECHO Programmatic Partnership, supported by IFRC and NLRC, ZRCS has supported Sioma district (which is in IPC4) with cash transfers to 3,000 affected households. It is also supporting 4,000 households in Shangombo district with bilateral support from the Czech Republic.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

The IFRC Secretariat plays an essential role in ensuring effective coordination across the Movement, through the IFRC Harare Country Cluster Delegation. In this response, the IFRC and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are giving advice on the overall safety and security support to

Movement partners. The IFRC Harare Cluster Delegation is in regular remote coordination with the ICRC South Africa Country Cluster Delegation, which provides support to ZRCS among other National Societies in Southern Africa. Regular meetings are held to ensure there is strong coordination and effective technical support for ZRCS, and complementarity, to ensure a harmonized response.

External coordination

Through its Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU), the Government of Zambia is coordinating the response to the drought. It has developed a comprehensive response and recovery plan and has launched an appeal for resource mobilization. The Government has carried out rapid assessment to ascertain the magnitude of the problem and it is now planning a Vulnerability Capacity Assessment. IFRC is participating in HCT and cluster coordination meetings ensuring complementarity with the planned response by the UN and other humanitarian actors.

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Reference



Click here for:

- Link to IFRC Emergency landing page
- [Zambia Drought DREF \(MDRZM022\)](#)