SITUATION OVERVIEW

Heavy rainfall since the beginning of January has led to riverine and flash floods in Zambia, mainly in the Southern Province, with Gwembe and Mambwe districts hardest-hit. The flooding has destroyed crops, including maize, in some of the areas heavily impacted by the last season drought, according to the Government’s Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU). In addition, erratic rains and dry spells at the beginning of the rainy season in November had already compromised the planting period in the Southern Region.

These recurrent climatic shocks could aggravate the already fragile food insecurity situation in Zambia. Before the floods, more than 2.3 million people were expected to be severely food insecure during the current lean season (October 2019 – March 2020), with at least 412,000 of them in Emergency levels according to the latest Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) report.

The drought has increased the risk of communicable disease and raised protection concerns. At least 64 per cent of the affected population relies on unsafe water sources and 95 per cent do not treat their water before use. Women have to walk longer distances to fetch water and increased cases of gender-based violence are being reported. With not enough food at home, children are more likely to dropout from school, and there are reports indicating that 75 per cent of children in Gwembe and Shongombo districts missed school two to three times a week since the third term started in October 2019.

Food distributions have taken place in seven districts, and nutrition, education, WASH, health and protection interventions are being implemented. More funding is, however, required urgently to prevent the humanitarian situation from deteriorating as the country approaches the peak of the lean season.

KEY FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People in need</th>
<th>People targeted*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.3 million</td>
<td>1.8 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FUNDING: ZAMBIA HUMANITARIAN APPEAL 2019

$89.5 million TOTAL REQUIREMENTS (US)

Requirements by sector (million $)

- Food Security: 54.3
- Early Recovery: 13.1
- Health: 6.4
- Protection: 5
- WASH: 4.7
- Nutrition: 4.4
- Education: 1.7
- Not specified

Funding by sector (million $)

- Funding received: 22%
- Funding pledged: 54.3
- Funding gap: 24.6

Contributions and pledges by donor (million $)

- United Kingdom: 16.3
- CERF: 8
- Sweden: 4
- United States: 3.4
- European Union: 2.2
- Canada: 1.5
- Italy: 0.6
- Ireland: 0.4
- Germany: 0.3
- Others: 5.4

Sources: 1. Zambia Humanitarian Appeal, 2. Zambia VAC, 3. Received bilaterally from partners and donors  
* The target has been revised from 2.3 million people to 1.8 million.
SECTOR OVERVIEW

Education

Needs
Drought and the consequent food insecurity have hampered education access in several districts. Children are having reduced meals, which leads to an increase in school absenteeism and dropouts. There are reports indicating that 75 per cent of students missed school two to three times a week across Gwembe and Shangombo districts, since the third term started in October 2019. Previously, at least 11 per cent of children were absent from school between January and April 2019, according to Save the Children.

Response
A total of 5,874 pupils in Eastern and Western provinces have been supported under the school feeding programme, which continued over the school break from December 2019 to mid-January 2020. School feasibility assessments have been conducted in 60 educational centres in Gwembe District, Southern Province, and more are scheduled for the coming weeks. The targeted schools have been selected in consultation with the District Education Board Office, prioritizing those located in remote areas. School orientation plans have been developed for Gwembe and Shangombo districts in the Southern Province.

Gaps
Several schools in Gwembe district did not continue school feeding activities during the end-year break as teachers returned to their home towns. The poor conditions of the roads and insufficient supply of mealie meal resulted in some delays in food distribution in 20 of the 60 schools in Gwembe.

Food Security

Needs
An estimated 2.3 million people are projected to face severe food insecurity from October 2019 to March 2020, including nearly 412,000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Most of the Central, Eastern, Lusaka, Southern and Western Provinces have been affected by prolonged dry spells and experienced an overall 50-60 per cent reduction in maize production during the last season, driving increasing hunger. Food and agricultural inputs remain the critical need, including seeds for replanting fields affected by the dry spells in November/December 2019. The situation is likely to be exacerbated by unpredictability of the Government’s social cash transfer (SCT) that would have cushioned food gaps. During the second week of January 2020, heavy rains resulted in flash floods damaging recently planted fields and washing away approximately 926 hectares of crops (cow-peas, maize and groundnuts) in Gwembe district, which is in IPC Phase 4. Bridges and roads were also damaged hampering transport of different supplies.

Response
During the last months, the Government has supplied 2,222 metric tons of maize and WFP and partners delivered 808 metric tons of pulses enough to serve up to 410,000 people in seven districts. World Vision has delivered seeds and initiated capacity building on climate smart agricultural practices for farmers. WFP has secured an additional 2,700 metric tons of pulses for distribution during January and February 2020. This quantity will be enough to feed 750,000 beneficiaries for one month.

Gaps
With significant procurement and distribution challenges, the number of people reached is lower than the 1.1 million targeted. These included inadequate allocation of maize meal and limited availability of pulses for local procurement, as well as the relatively long time taken by partners to establish programmes and complete targeting exercises in affected districts. Partners also experienced pressure to include all community members as beneficiaries. WFP and DMMU are working on solutions to scale-up the response. Meanwhile, payment modalities for the ECT remained a challenge as the third-party payment agent was not able to reach all of the areas as quickly as anticipated.

** Food Security target has been revised from the initially 2.3 million people to 1.1 million.
### Nutrition

**Needs**
Prolonged drought has negatively impacted the nutrition conditions of children under age 5 and of pregnant and lactating women. According to the Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) analysis, 24 of the 87 districts assessed have acute malnutrition (wasting) prevalence above the national average of four per cent. Across the nine most-affected provinces of Zambia, acute malnutrition affects nearly six per cent of children. In Mongu, Limulunga, Luano and Ngabwe districts, the levels are even higher, affecting 11 per cent of children. Siavonga, Sinazongwe, Kazugula, Namwala, Lunga, Kaoma and Nkeyema districts have wasting prevalence of 10 per cent.

**Response**
UNICEF and Nutrition Sector partners are providing SAM treatment for children under age 5 in drought-affected districts. The sector has screened more than 31,492 children for acute malnutrition and has integrated mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening into integrated management of acute malnutrition database for routine monitoring. At least 8,700 cartons of 14 kilograms of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) have been procured and distributed to treat 699 children. Facilities in the four targeted districts (Sioma, Lunga, Shang’ombo and Gwembe) received technical support and mentorship from district, provincial and national levels. At least 615 health workers and community volunteers have been trained on nutrition data management and outpatient therapeutic programme screening and treatment in all priority districts.

**Gaps**
Nutrition services’ coverage has been delayed due to difficult road conditions in some remote areas.

### Health

**Needs**
Drought conditions indicate an increase in the prevalence of diarrhoeal diseases, communicable diseases and malnutrition. Although this affects the entire population, children, pregnant and lactating women are population groups at higher risks due to existing vulnerability. Women and girls are also vulnerable to gender-based violence, unplanned pregnancies and increased risk from complications of pregnancy and child birth due to scarcity of resources and lack of access to health services in health facilities with optimum hygiene conditions.

**Response**
During this reporting period, the health sector has responded to the polio outbreak and worked to finalize guidelines and strategies for the health sector. The polio vaccination campaign targeted 478,500 children. Among the materials prepared, the sector finalized the guidelines for training health workers on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and ICCM guidelines and training materials to align them to the emergency response. The process will be completed before end of the January and cascading of training to health workers from district level. Process of procuring the identified drugs for treating and managing childhood illness including diarrohoea, pneumonia and malaria in children is

**Gaps**
Competing priorities in the Ministry of Health due to the polio outbreak led to delays in the drought response. Inadequate participation of partners in the health sector also delays implementation and support at the health facilities.

### Protection

**Needs**
According to the ZVAC, women and girls of reproductive age constitute more than 25 per cent of the total drought-affected population. The shortage of food has increased protection risks in communities, with reports of increased gender-based violence at home, young girls going out to solicit for food and young people migrating to Namibia to look for jobs. According to a recent assessment, 58 per cent of respondents in Shang’ombo and 16 per cent in Sioma reported knowledge of households that have sent their children to other families or towns for work. In Shang’ombo, 8 per cent of the population know a girl who was married early. In addition, community mechanisms to support the protection of children are not functioning as members prioritize securing food for their own family needs.

**Response**
Over 90 front-line responders involved in food distribution and emergency cash transfer, including 18 Government social workers, were trained on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). While INGO partners ensure that contractors involved in the response at the local level were trained on PSEA, community-based child protection committees’ capacity has been strengthened and needs assessments have been conducted. The focus is to ensure that preventive and responses services are enhanced to address emerging protection risks for boys and girls targeting civic leaders and school management committees. Procurement of 5,045 dignity kits and 50 rape kits is underway.

**Gaps**
Key protection messaging and best practice is still not fully embedded across sectors. Limited funding available for the protection sector hindered delivery of planned activities. The recent flash flood impacted access to Lunga district and conducting monitoring and community sensitization remains a challenge. Need to strengthen the capacity of service providers who provide post-GBV care and support such as health, psychosocial counselling, social welfare, police (Victim Support Unit) and paralegals.
## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

### Needs

Following two consecutive poor rainy season, access to water for human and animal consumption as well as agricultural production has become a challenge in the districts affected. At least 64 per cent of drought affected people use water from an unimproved source and 95 per cent of the population do not treat their water before use. This situation has led to an increasing prevalence of diarrhoea and other communicable diseases. Heavy rains in January 2020 have damaged bridges and key crossing points. Debris of logs and leaves blocked bridges leading to some embankments to burst. Health facilities requested additional supplies of chlorine to prevent cases of water-borne diseases.

### Response

The WASH sector is supporting the drilling, upgrading and rehabilitation of water infrastructure. The sector has completed the drilling of sector bore holes in Chongwe, and 94 boreholes were rehabilitated in the drought-affected areas, which benefited 80,000 people. The sector supported training of 1,044 water user committee members in various drought affected districts to improve water governance.

### Gaps

Poor road condition and recent flash floods affect access to borehole sites, which combined with the high rate of dry boreholes, hamper access to safe water. There is increased needs for sanitary support for adolescent girls and young women.

## Coordination

### Needs

This emergency requires the close coordination of all activities to avoid duplication of effort and make sure the response reach those who need it the most. The interaction with Ministries, UN agencies and operational partners is vital in rolling out the multi-sectoral humanitarian support to complement Government’s interventions. Continuous tracking of response progress, funding availability and resource capacity is key to ensure critical gaps are identified and addressed.

### Response

The Government Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) is leading the humanitarian response in Zambia, in partnership with the UN Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) and support from OCHA. Since October 2019, seven sector coordination platforms are holding weekly meetings. The DMMU and RCO also hold weekly national level inter-sector coordination meetings. To ensure accountability and transparency, Zambia Humanitarian Appeal contributions are tracked on the global Financial Tracking Service (FTS) https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/937/summary. All coordination meetings’ schedules and locations are now available here: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/zambia/events. An interactive organizational presence map showing real time organizational presence per sector and district can be found online here: https://bit.ly/2pS85Oh

### Gaps

Only few partners provided funding report to FTS, compromising the overview of the response. Partners are urged to submit contribution directly using https://fts.unocha.org/content/report-contribution.