This bulletin is for information purposes only and reflects the current situation of food security in Zambia. The content of this report represents the details available at the time of publication. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and other Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners are working with Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS) to assist the affected people.

The situation

Zambia is currently facing acute food insecurity, shortage of clean and safe drinking water, chronic high malnutrition, an energy deficit and livestock diseases. The devastating effects of prolonged dry spells coupled with the late onset of the rainy season have resulted in poor agricultural production and reduced access to food, contributing to acute food insecurity conditions across the country.

The prolonged dry spells between January and March 2019 affected Southern and Western parts of Lusaka, and the Eastern and Central provinces. In most districts, many households facing a second consecutive season with prolonged dry spells had limited stocks of cereals which depleted during the first three post-harvest months of April - June 2019 setting in motion widespread food scarcity expected to continue up to the next harvest period, that is, April of 2020. Most of these households rely entirely on rain-fed crop production for food and income and any prolonged deviation from the normal pattern drastically undermines food security.

Further, thirty-eight (38) of the fifty-eight (58) districts that were in IPC phase 3 (crisis) by April have now degenerated to IPC phase 4 (emergency). A total population of 1.7 million is facing food scarcity1.

---

1 Zambia IPC Report, August 2019
Currently the seven (7) Branches of the National Society in Eastern, Southern, North-Western and Western provinces are distributing relief food (mealie meal) on behalf of the government in which 70 volunteers and 5 members of staff are involved. There is no specific target group as entire communities are affected, but support is given based on the resources available. The government registers the beneficiaries, and the Red Cross helps to validate the list with community leadership before distribution.

The NS has embarked upon the process of developing its Food Insecurity Response plan, and it aims to deliver assistance to 109,076 people (18,180 HH) affected by food insecurity. The focus of their plan is on the provision and food, WASH, Health, Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) services to those in need, as well as National Society Capacity Strengthening. The support is intended to cover four (4) provinces Southern (Sinazongwe, Zimba; Pemba, Monze districts); Western (Limulunga, Kalabo districts ); North Western Province (Kabompo, Chavuma and Zambezi districts ); and Eastern Province (Lundazi and Petauke districts). The target districts are among the severely affected, classified under IPC 4. Additionally, the National Society has active branches in those districts with strong network of volunteers who will be supporting the proposed operation. Further, prior liaison with DMMU over the severity, needs and potential response by other agencies as per their registered commitments preceded the final geographical targeting by the National Society.

The NS has been in contact with Government through the Office of the Vice President (Disaster Management and Mitigating Unit - DMMU), which is coordinating the national response including guiding on geographical targeting as they are privy to which districts other humanitarian responders are targeting. This coordination helps to ensure there is no duplication of services or having other equally affected areas left out.

As part of its disaster preparedness activities, ZRCS has embarked on a cash readiness programme with technical support from the Netherlands RC and the IFRC. The National Society is resolved to apply cash-based
Interventions in this response which is also expected to enhance its capacity to use cash. The ZRCS will activate the recent agreements with financial service providers to provide cash to the affected households.

External Coordination and Partnerships

The National Society is working in close coordination with the government through Disaster Management and Mitigating Unit (DMMU), local and international NGOs and UN Agencies. A series of coordination meetings hosted by World Vision Zambia have been ongoing under the coordination mechanism dubbed the Zambia Humanitarian Response Consortium, of which ZRCS is a part, to discuss the current drought situation in the country.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Coordination: Zambia Red Cross and the Netherlands RC regularly convene liaison meetings for enhanced coordination, support and mutual appreciation of shared goals. The Netherlands RC is supporting a program called Strengthening Response Preparedness (RP II). The aim of the project is to build the preparedness capacity of the NS to be able to respond to disasters. The project adopted among others, three key innovative mechanisms which are:

a) Data Preparedness;
b) Forecast-based Financing (FbF); and

c) Cash Based Interventions (Cash Transfer Programming)

Both ICRC and Netherlands Red Cross are supporting the Response to Population Movement operation, implemented by the National Society. The NS has been working closely with IFRC Cluster office in Pretoria brainstorming the appropriate interventions for the food insecurity situation in Zambia.

Other coordination mechanisms: World Vision is hosting and chairing coordination meetings which are aimed at bringing together various key stakeholders to address the drought situation in Southern and Western Provinces of Zambia. The coordination meetings are attended by, among others, UN Agencies (UNDP, FAO, WFP, UNICEF), local and international NGOs. The meetings are usually attended by high level decision makers to ensure quick and important decisions are made timely. ZRCS is part of the coordination team and works hand in hand with other stakeholders. through participation in the meetings. Further, this initiative has government blessings through the DMMU which also provided the consortium with additional information on the situation. In addition, the government has committed to providing the Letter of Support to those that would require it.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

For Zambia Red Cross

- Mr. Kaitano Chungu, Secretary General, ZRCS, email: kaitano.chungu@redcross.org.zm
  (Mobile: +260 977 623 948)

- Mulambwa Mwanang’ono - Disaster Management Manager, email: mulambwa@gmail.com
  (Mobile: +260 970 455 600)

For IFRC Country Cluster Support Team


For IFRC Regional Office for Africa

- Adesh Tripathee, Head of Disaster Crisis Prevention, Response and Recovery Department, Nairobi, Kenya; phone +254731067489, email: adesh.tripathee@ifrc.org

In Geneva
How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC’s vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.

The IFRC’s work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.