



INFORMATION UPDATE ON DROUGHT RESPONSE BY THE UN SYSTEM

The purpose of this information update is to keep the UN in Zambia updated on the United Nations & partners contribution to the current Drought emergency. The brief may also be shared with the Government and the Cooperating Partners, as a way of also keeping them updated.

Key Highlights

- **IPC 2024 result published:** An estimated 5.8 million people (33 percent of the analysed population) will likely experience heightened hunger between October 2024 and March 2025. The IPC projects that nearly 5.6 million people will likely experience IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 236,000 people IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Seven additional districts are projected to move from IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) to Phase 3 – corresponding to 89 hotspot districts in Zambia. To prevent this dire situation, urgent lifesaving and livelihood assistance is imperative.
- **UN Interagency Mission Highlights Urgent Need to Scale Up Drought Response in Sioma:** From 29 September to 03 October, a UN Interagency mission visited Sioma in Zambia's Western Province to monitor ongoing drought response interventions. The team met the District Commissioner and visited several key sites, including cash distribution points, a rural health clinic, mini hospital, a school, and local markets while also holding group discussions with farmers to better understand their situation. The mission found that despite the ongoing assistance, needs remained high, with many people continuing to rely on negative coping strategies. It is crucial to scale up response activities in the coming months and provide agricultural inputs as soon as possible to enable communities grow food during the upcoming rainy season, building resilience against future shocks.



- **Childhood Vulnerability:** Over 3 million children under 18 years old, including 1.2 million children under the age of 5, are facing prolonged food insecurity, with a high risk of common childhood illnesses, vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks, and malnutrition, as reported by the SMART Survey in May 2024; to address the vulnerability to malnutrition, UNICEF, working with Government and other partners have supported treatment of 7,051 children for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), inclusive of oedema cases, while 16,288 children were treated for (Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), from March to September 2024 in the drought affected districts.



Needs overview

Another mission was conducted by UNDP from 7 to 17 September 2024 in four districts in Southern and Western provinces, highlighting some important findings, such as:

- **Water Scarcity and Dried Streams:** Water scarcity was reported to have reached critical levels in all the four districts. Streams that traditionally provided water for both human and livestock consumption had dried up, forcing communities to travel long distances in search of water. This lack of water has not only affected domestic use but also agricultural activities.
- **Hunger and Depletion of Wild Fruits:** The drought has led to widespread hunger, with local food sources depleted. Wild fruits, which many households relied on as a coping mechanism during lean periods, had also run out due to over-harvesting. This has left many households without access to any immediate food sources.



- **Human–wildlife Conflict:** With natural water sources drying up, wild animals are increasingly encroaching on human settlements in search of water and food. There have been reported cases of elephants raiding villages and destroying crops and endangering lives in districts such as Shang’ombo. This human-animal conflict has worsened the vulnerability of already distressed communities.
- **Dried Fields, No Harvest, and Lack of Seed:** Agricultural fields in the visited districts are dry. Farmers were unable to harvest any significant crops during the 2023/24 farming season, and there are concerns that without immediate intervention, they will also be unable to plant crops in the next season due to the lack of seed and low soil moisture.
- **Livestock Diseases:** The prolonged drought has affected livestock due to a lack of water and grazing pasture, making them more susceptible to diseases. In areas such as Namwala and Mwandi, livestock farmers walk long distances to find water for their animals.



Resource Mobilization Tracking



UN Appeal Funding: As of September 2024, only \$62 million (around 27%) of the \$228 million UN Appeal has been funded, according to in-country tracking. However, the published dashboard (<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrjoiNTQzYjU0NGQ0tNmQ0OS00DAwLTlhZjAtYzJjZmYxZDg1MDgzliwidCl6ljBmQWUzNWRiLTU0NGYtNGY2MCIzGNjltVIYtQxNmU2ZGM3MCIslmMiOjh9>) currently reflects \$35 million in funding, with an update expected soon. The UN urgently calls on humanitarian partners to secure the critical funding necessary to save lives and provide support to those impacted by the crisis.

Drought Funding in Zambia: According to the UN OCHA Supported Financial Tracking Service (FTS) of stakeholder contributions, a total allocation of US\$ 330.96 million to support drought-affected populations was recorded. Of this, US\$ 234.34 million (71%) was provided to the Government, while US\$ 65.62 million (29%) was allocated to UN agencies and partners.

Drought Response - UN Support to Government

Sector Update

Coordination

In response to the climate change-induced drought the Government of Zambia activated various clusters in November 2023, co-led with the UN System, to implement a Food Security Drought Response Plan. These clusters cover Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Health, Education, Protection, Early Recovery & Resilience, Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), Energy, Emergency Logistics, Infrastructure, and Wildlife Management.

The UN, as co-chair of the cluster groups, is committed to supporting the Zambian Government in addressing the drought situation, aiming to create a smooth transition from emergency response to development in the affected districts. Regular cluster meetings were held during the reporting period.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) deployed a full-time staff member to enhance coordination efforts. The OCHA coordinator supported various activities, including Humanitarian Country Team meetings, inter-sector coordination, response monitoring using the 5Ws matrix, financial tracking of the drought response appeal, and managing the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for Zambia. The 5Ws Tool helps to map and monitor response actions, identify gaps and overlaps, and optimize resource use.

During September and October, Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meetings brought together all humanitarian partners to share updates on ongoing response efforts. OCHA prepared a drought dashboard based on the available information for response monitoring. The Humanitarian Country Team suggested the revision of the Flash Appeal by extending ongoing response operation to June 2025 and preparation of a contingency plan considering the high possibility of floods based on the weather forecast. The HCT also committed to support DMMU in preparation of Zambia National Multi Hazard Contingency Plan & UN Multi-Hazard Preparedness and Response Plan (to integrate potential floods in the response).



Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL)

Number of people targeted: 2.6 million

Number of people reached: 548,988

Requested amount: 109.5 million

Received amount: US\$ 35 million

Number of partner operational: 10

Complementary to ongoing Government responses through DMMU and MCDSS, cluster members are responding directly in multiple districts. WFP, ZRCS, OXFAM, CARE and ADRA, among others, have rolled out interventions targeted at supporting vulnerable and food insecure households in the most affected districts.

Key activities/Indicators

Government of the Republic of Zambia				
Key Activities/Indicators	Plan	Actual	Progress	Comment
DMMU In-kind Maize (MT)	41,865	36,934	88%	Mixed mechanism 20% unconditional and 80% Food For Assistance (FFA)
FRA Community Sales (MT)		108,002		
Food Security Cluster				
Key Activities/Indicators	Plan	Actual	Progress	Comments
# of people receiving food assistance	1,166,604	125,390	11%	By WFP
	1,459,237	423,598	29%	By NGOs
Quantity of Food Distributed under service provision to Govt - Emergency Logistics support	12,528	11,147	90%	222,940 beneficiaries reached with Government maize

Detailed description of the support Food Security Cluster is providing for the response

Government - led Interventions

- The data analysis for the Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZVAC) has been completed. The official results have been published showing that more than 5.8 million people projected to face crisis food insecurity or worse (IPC 3+) between October and March 2025.
- The number of people facing emergency food insecurity (IPC4) has risen 5-fold to 236,000.
- Cumulative Food Reserve Agency (FRA) community sales of subsidized maize stood at 144,722 MT since January 2024 as a market stabilization measure.
- In September, the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) distributed 36,934 MT of maize grain across 84 districts. Of this, 20% was allocated as unconditional assistance, while 80% was designated for food-for-work programs.
- The Social Cash Transfer (SCT) scale-up, as part of shock responsive social protection, commenced with retroactive payments for July and August targeting the balance of the 726,361 ECT households across the 84 affected districts not covered by FSL responders.



- WFP continued to support the transportation of FRA maize to hard-to-reach drought affected districts. A cumulative total of 11,147MT of maize reaching 222,940 beneficiaries was delivered representing 90% of a planned 12,528 MT.
- Through WFP, the UN has continued providing technical support to the Ministry of Education and partners facilitating the of emergency school feeding to 36 new districts which are among the 84 affected by the drought. This intervention targets to reach more than 4,000 schools (2.5M learners).
- Of the total 9,664 MT sales orders issued to procure maize from the southern part of Tanzania, 2,262.5mt has been dispatched to Zambia. The 126 MT fortified cooking oil from South Africa has been received in Lusaka and available for distribution.
- Under logistics service provision, WFP continues to support other UN agencies (WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA) in the distribution and storage of assorted commodities under the emergency response.
- Data collection, aggregation and analysis for remote market monitoring (mVAM) has continued with round 4 results planned for public dissemination to key stakeholders and decision makers.

FSL partners preparedness and response

The cluster continued to deliver assistance through cash transfers and in-kind food in Western and Southern province utilising contributions from ARC and CERF funds, and other bilateral donors.

Other cluster members continued to implement various responses in the worst-affected districts reaching a total of 423,598 people across different districts. Cluster members reporting activities included CARE, CRS, Niras, People in Need, Save the Children, World Vision Zambia and Zambia Red Cross Society.



[Market monitoring \(mVAM\) detailed update](#)

Since June 2024, WFP and DMMU, with support from the UK Government, have been implementing remote market monitoring (known as mVAM) to track the price of food commodities and market functionality based on four dimensions namely: (1) assortment - range of food and non-food commodities found within the markets; (2) availability - availability of sufficient stocks within the markets to meet the demand; (3) price - price stability and predictability and (4) resilience - responsiveness of supply chains to timely increase supply of stocks in the event of increased need.

Four rounds of data collection have since been completed, covering 74 of the 84 drought affected districts. The September results recorded a positive trend in the Market functionality Index, with an overall MFI score of 6.3, indicating moderate market functionality. The results show varying levels of market performance across different markets, with the highest MFI scores recorded in North-western and Western Provinces (7.1), indicating relatively stable market conditions. This marked a sharp turnaround for, Northwestern province which had the the lowest MFI score of 3.6, due to severely low availability (MFI score of 2.0) of commodities. Market based intervention such as advance notice to traders on upcoming cash payments and activation of FRA sales points have been implemented.

The detailed breakdown of key dimensions across the 8 provinces highlights the market's strengths and weaknesses - resilience scored relatively high at 8.9, reflecting strong responsiveness of the supply chain, while assortment and availability scored 6.4 and 7.1, respectively, indicating a decent but not optimal range and consistency of goods in the markets. However, the price dimension scored lower at 5.1, pointing to price stability and predictability concerns across the country.

Key achievements



During the reporting period, cluster members (UN, International NGOs and national NGOs) achieved the following:

- Continued scale up of drought response in the worst affected districts.
- Provision of logistics support to the Government to deliver maize in hard-to-reach drought affected locations supporting more than 200,000 people.
- Provision of fuel support to DMMU to ensure on time delivery of the maize grain.
- Setup of retailers to support delivery of assistance through commodity vouchers in Western and Southern provinces.

Agriculture

Number of people targeted: 2.8 million

Number of people reached: 57,176

Requested amount: USD 60 million

Received amount: USD 6.1million

Number of partner operational:02

Key activities/Result Indicators (Plan and Actual)

Key activities/Result Indicators	Plan	Actual
Provision of solar irrigation Kits	Provide 90 irrigation kits to benefit 720 households (4,320 individuals)	
Provision of Agricultural input packs (seed and fertilizer)	200,000 small scale farmers	10,200 small scale farmers.
Rehabilitation of waterpoints	Rehabilitation of 266 water points for both human and livestock use	
Support Livestock Supplementary Feeding	Procure 1 pellet making machine and feed mixer Procure and provide 400 bales hay (Rhodes grass/170kg) and 7mt of molasses	2 pellet making machine. 2 feed mixers. 400 bales hay (Rhodes grass/170kg). 7mt of molasses.
Registration of beneficiaries	Register 15,900 smallholder farmers	16,200 smallholder farmers registered.
Training of Extension officers in climate smart agriculture practices. Training of farmers in climate smart agriculture practices	Train 107 district and frontline extension officers in the 7 districts and 49 camps of intervention. Train 10,200 beneficiaries in climate smart agriculture practices	Currently conducting training of 144 district and frontline extension officers (48 female, 96 male) in the 7 districts and 49 camps of intervention.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Number of people targeted: 3.5 million

Number of people reached: 658,150

Requested amount: 20.7 million

Received amount: US\$ 4,008,703 (80% funding gap)

Number of partner operational:06

Key activities/Result Indicators (Plan and Actual)

Key activities/Result Indicators	Plan (UN Drought Appeal)	Actual	Progress (%)	Comment on progress
Additional people having access to treated water	50,000	658,150	+100%	Targets were set low due to available budget during UN drought appeal planning.
Additional people with access to sanitation	15,000	129,910	+100%	Targets were set low due to available budget during UN drought appeal planning.
Additional people having access to hygiene promotion	3,500,000	285,000	8%	With the ongoing RCCE interventions, we expect to reach the target.

- Under the drought flash appeal project, WASH partners completed drilling of 256 boreholes, and 46 water schemes which include solarization and pipe networks and rehabilitation of 433 boreholes and 119 water scheme development is currently ongoing.
- Furthermore, UNICEF procured contracts for rehabilitation and drilling of 765 water boreholes (569 for rehabilitation and 191 new boreholes) in 33 of the 84 drought affected districts. Out of this, 414 boreholes were newly procured to respond to the 2023/24 drought, whilst 351 boreholes had been done using development funds in drought affected areas. To date, 531 boreholes have been completed, with 335 rehabilitated and 191 new boreholes drilled, enabling 132,750 people to have increased access to basic drinking water.
- UNICEF completed the distribution of WASH infection prevention and control (IPC) supplies to 152 schools in Central Province and Southern Province, reaching 17,261 learners (8,837 girls and 9,378 boys).
- UNICEF completed the delivery of WASH IPC hygiene kits to 14 drought-affected districts in six provinces. The supplies are being distributed to 300 health care facilities, 44,550 vulnerable families, and 1000 children discharged from malnutrition treatment facilities, enabling about 223,500 children and their families to have improved hygiene practices.



Key challenges

- Shortage of funding - Against the funding requirement of US\$ 20,650,000 required for the drought response, US\$ 4,008,703 has been secured (CERF, CARE, CRS, World Vision and the Joint Country program for Norwegian Church Aid-Dan Church Aid, Rapid Response Network).
- Coordination of the drought response among all Cluster actors needs to be further strengthened, through adapting a common Information Management platform. There are ongoing discussions on harmonization of the different platforms used by DMMU, OCHA and the clusters.

Coordination update: As part of ongoing UNICEF commitment in WASH Cluster coordination, as a cluster co-lead, monthly WASH cluster, and monthly water quality monitoring coordination meetings continue. A Google account and dedicated email address “zambia.wash@humanitarianresponse.info” was created. The Zambia WASH humanitarian response page has also been activated; through it, partners will be able to share updates, assessments, reports, human-interest stories etc.

Nutrition

Number of people targeted: 1.0 million

Number of people reached: 236,966

Flash Appeal amount: 11.6 million

Received amount: USD 5,727,739

Number of partner operational:08

Nutrition Cluster Budget: 22.2 million

Cluster Funds mobilized: 7,906,744

Key activities/Result Indicators (Plan and Actual)

Key activities/Result Indicators	Plan (UN Drought Appeal)	Actual	Progress (%)	Comment on progress
Number of children (6-59) screened for acute malnutrition	887,615	781,480	87%	
Number of people receiving blanket supplementary feeding	202,296	0	0%	First shipment of corn-soy blend for children 6-23 months expected soon, with distribution expected in the 4th quarter of 2024.
Number of under 5 treated for SAM	51,045	7,051	12%	The target for SAM treatment is for all 84 droughts. The UN is directly supporting treatment in 25 of the 84 (priority 20 + SUN-II drought affected). Screening remains low in the districts not directly supported for active case finding by the UN.
Number of pregnant women receiving multiple micronutrients supplements (MMS)	186,800	0	0%	MMS not yet received in-country. Distribution expected in quarter 4.

- UNICEF has supported training of 206 out of 792 health workers and 842 out of 3,081 Community Based Volunteers (CBVs) in Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) and Maternal Adolescent Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MAIYCN). UN has supported active screening of 779,867 children aged 6-59 months for wasting.
- UNICEF supported procurement and distribution of the following treatment commodities (RUTF 3461 cartons, F-75 232 Cartons, F-100 182 Cartons, Resomol 19 cartons and CMV 77 cartons across the drought affected districts), towards treatment of 3461 children with severe wasting.
- Trained and set up sub-national nutrition cluster coordination structures in 20 drought affected districts across 4 drought affected provinces namely, Western (Sioma, Sikongo, Senanga, Mongu, Shangombo, Kalabo, Kaoma and Lukulu districts; Southern (Sinazongwe, Gweembe, Pemba, Zimba, Monze, Choma and Kazungula districts); Eastern (Lumezi and Lusangazi districts); Lusaka (Rufunsa district) and North Western (Zambezi and Chavuma districts).
- Supported Government with the adaptation and roll out of the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) and Maternal Adolescent and Infant and young Child Nutrition (MAIYCN) in emergencies training packages.
- A SMART survey in 6 drought affected provinces of Zambia to inform wasting prevalence was conducted together with partners.
- Developed quarterly nutrition supplies tracking tool to help with planning and preventing stock out of nutrition supplies in the districts.
- Supported the development of kobo-based nutrition information surveillance tool to monitor the nutrition situation on a biweekly basis- this has enabled tracking trends of malnutrition in different locations as well as stock outs of malnutrition treatment commodities.



Key Highlights

From March to September a cumulative total of 7,051 children were enrolled for SAM management (inclusive of oedema cases) whilst 16,288 children were enrolled for MAM management.

- With a record high in severe and moderate wasting admissions seen in June 2024 owing to massive screening of children during the first round of the bi-annual child health week campaign with support from the UN and other Nutrition cluster members.
- On average, 727,149 children are screened monthly in drought affected districts through Government, and other cluster members, with an average monthly enrolment of 1283 SAM cases and 3,258 MAM cases.
- The Government has procured 4,140 cartons of RUTF and distributed 1320 cartons to drought affected districts.
- 1,735 children under the age of five accessed services, with 568 screened for malnutrition.

Key challenges

- Low reporting rate for key nutrition indicators through Kobo based surveillance platform. This is posing a challenge to ensure timely prepositioning of nutrition commodities.
- Last mile distribution of Nutrition commodities. The distribution of commodities to the last mile (point of need) needs to be improved.
- Gap for Moderate Malnutrition Supplements. There is still a gap for commodities for management of moderate wasting. This increases the risk of these children deteriorating into severe wasting.

Education

Number of people targeted: 4.6 million
Number of people reached: 18,198
Requested amount: 2.7 million
Received amount: US\$73,610 (97% funding gap)
Number of partner operational: 03

Key activities/Result Indicators (Plan and Actual)

Key activities/Result Indicators	Plan (UN Drought Appeal)	Actual	Progress (%)	Comment on progress
Number of learners supported with continued learning interventions	200,000	1,744 (accessing learning passport).	1%	At the time of planning, we were anticipating schools to close due to drought. This did not happen.
Number of learners supported with school feeding programme	4,400,000	18,060	0.41%	Roll out to additional districts is underway.
Number of Head teachers and teachers engaged in psychosocial support for learners.	3,000	0	0%	Not yet done due to lack of funding.
Number of MoE officials and other partners capacity built on Education in Emergency including Disaster Risk Reduction	40	138	345%	108 were in 36 districts were trained in emergency school feeding protocols. 30 MOE staff and education partners were trained in Education in Emergencies.

- With the support from UNICEF, 152 schools across 8 districts (Luano, Mumbwa, Chibombo, Chirundu, Pemba, Monze, Sinazongwe and Monze) from Southern and Central Provinces the WASH IPC program has reached approximately 17,261 children. This initiative aims to enhance hygiene and handwashing practices at the school level.
- The education sector unveiled the initial results of a rapid need assessment during the inter-cluster coordination meeting at the DMMU and the HCT. Collaborating with education sector stakeholders, the aim was to synchronize the drought response in accordance with the highlighted needs. The predominant reason identified (reported by 66% of respondents) for children not attending school was their involvement in supporting their families or engaging in work.
- Moreover, partners such as Save the Children International (SCI) and World Vision Zambia (WVZ) are expanding the school feeding program, complementing the Ministry of Education's efforts with additional support from Global Partnership for Education (GPE) funding. This initiative aims to tackle issues of hunger, learning dropouts, and absenteeism.



Key Challenges

- Limited number of active partners in the Education in Emergency sector, with only three cluster members primarily focusing on school feeding initiatives.
- Inadequate funding for Education in Emergency; out of the required US\$ 2,700,000 for drought response, only US\$ 73,610 has been secured from UNICEF and SCI.

Coordination

The Education Working Group (EWG) bi-weekly meeting is conducted under the lead of MoE and UNICEF is regularly supporting MoE while Save the Children International (SCI) is providing the secretariat.

The mapping of education in emergency partners has been completed and is regularly updated to accommodate any new partners interested in joining. The EWG and cluster's mailing list is maintained through a consent form, ensuring that all communications are streamlined.



Protection

Number of people targeted: 1.2 million

Number of people reached: 237,395

Requested amount: 3.0 million

Received amount: USD 1.4 million

Number of partner operational: 07

The coordination of the Protection Sector was strengthened thanks to renewed commitment from the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) to act as lead - with support from UNHCR as co-lead.

Key Highlights

The protection response to the drought crisis for refugees and their host communities was supported by UNHCR's implementing partner, Action Aid Zambia (AAZ). Within the reporting period, AAZ conducted community mobilization and re-orientation activities on emergency preparedness and response as well as on GBV case management (ensuring an understanding of referral pathways to national response systems). Participants included refugee leadership structures, child and youth care-workers, GBV monitors, and community development workers including Community Welfare Assistance Committees (CWACs) within both Mayukwayukwa refugee settlement and surrounding host communities in Senanga, Sikongo, Shangombo and Sioma.

Brave Heart, another NGO partner working with UNHCR for the drought response, trained 50 community members from Meheba refugee settlement on child protection and GBV. In the reporting period disbursement of cash social assistance as part of the CERF also began, with UNHCR providing cash via mobile money to 1,390 refugee households with vulnerabilities - in Lusaka, Meheba, Mayukwayukwa, Mantapala, Ndola and Kabwe. MCDSS-led cash distributions for host community households will follow, complementing on the CERF funded cash assistance.

To better ascertain how the drought is impacting refugees in Zambia and to inform the continued response, UNHCR conducted a protection risk assessment with 3,917 refugee households. Among other parameters, the assessment examined the impact of the drought on food security within the refugee community. Seven (7) indicators measuring Livelihood Coping Strategies (LCS) record that 84% of the interviewed households report having relied on livelihood coping strategies in the previous month, or having exhausted them within the last 12 months, due to lack of food or money to buy it.

Most commonly, coping involved borrowing money (49%), reduction of expenditure on health (49%), as well as on education (40%). Most of the households reported having reduced both the number of daily meals and food portions in the previous week.

A high percentage of households have spent their savings to meet essential needs (39%) and/or begged or scavenged to meet those needs (38%). The main challenge to improving livelihoods is reportedly a lack of capital (36%), followed by limited access to agriculture inputs or land (27%). Meanwhile, 5% of the households surveyed perceive that legal barriers to move out of refugee settlements affect their livelihood capacity and 5% consider lack of adequate skills as an impediment.



UN and Partners' support

- In September, Lifeline Childline Zambia (LLCZ) hotlines team processed 9,039 calls related to the drought emergency, corresponding to 19% of the total number of calls received in the reporting period (47,067). Since 1 October, two counsellors from LLCZ have been deployed to the DMMU situation room call centre to facilitate protection referrals, including on GBV and child protection. This secondment has been funded by UNICEF.
- Save the Children completed an assessment on mental health and psycho-social support needs arising during the drought crisis. World Vision, with support from UNICEF, WFP and DMMU trained 46 staff involved in food distribution and school feeding in 9 drought affected districts. The training focussed on child protection in emergencies and PSEA. Plan International also conducted child protection and PSEA briefings with district personnel, under the Nutrition in Emergencies Project supported by UNICEF, in Sinazongwe and Gwembe districts.
- UNFPA continued to support the Ministry of Health to set up mobile clinics at food distribution points, and works in collaboration with WFP, NCA, and Lifeline Childline to mitigate the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse during food and cash distributions in Western and Southern Provinces. Technical support was provided to set up help desks at distribution points, and grievances were channelled through the hotlines managed by Lifeline.
- Further, Young Women's Christian Association Zambia (YWCA) rolled out a 3-month mentorship programme on psychological first aid and resilience.

Health

Number of people targeted: 4.6 million

Number of people reached: 60,000 (approx.)

Requested amount: US\$ 20.1 million

Received amount: US\$ 1.3 million

Number of partner operational: 03

The Ministry of Health provided integrated SRH services through integrated mobile health teams, targeting underserved communities and hard-to-reach areas. Services include maternal health care (Antenatal care, Postnatal care, Family planning services including testing for Malaria, HIV, Syphilis testing, and treatment for people living with HIV). In total over 60,000 people have been reached with family planning, antenatal and postnatal care, GBV counselling, nutrition, and general health checks.





- Mobile outreach-based integrated SRH services for Monze, Mazabuka, Mambwe and Petauke with 49 health facilities supported. UNFPA is piloting the provision of these services during food distribution with partners including Norwegian Church Aid and the World Food Programme.
- Lifeline and Childline – which provide information on the drought, healthcare as well as support and referrals for women and girls at risk of GBV. During the reporting period, 417,184 calls were made to the helpline; around 20 percent of calls were related to drought and GBV.
- YWCA has supported and recruited adolescents and in August a total of 27,484 adolescent girls and 6,220 boys were enrolled and participated in the 3-month mentorship program. 163 safe space mentors from Monze and Petauke districts received training in psychological first aid.
- UNFPA has through the reproductive health commodity department engaged ZAMMSA to ensure adequate family planning commodities and methods are consistently available at the service delivery points.

Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Number of people targeted: 9.8million

Number of people reached: 4 million

Requested amount: USD1,745,000

Received amount: US\$ 200 000

Expenditure: US\$200,000

Number of partner operational: 09

Overall situation and needs

In the 84 districts affected by drought, the harsh realities of climate change have manifested themselves in the form of devastating crop failures. As this crisis engulfs the districts, the relentless efforts to avert food insecurity have become an urgent priority.

Amidst this crisis, the youngest and most vulnerable members of the community are most affected. Community awareness on drought still is a challenge with more awareness activities required. Therefore, the interventions from the UN and Partners present a huge potential to make an immediate impact and contribution to the resilience of farmers against the negative effects of climate change.

Key Highlights

- Call centre agents were trained on key messages and information to share with the public on Nutrition, Risk Communication and Community Engagement, Health, Agriculture and Food Security, WASH, Early Recovery and Resilience Building, Education, Livestock and Fisheries and Energy.
- Since June to 20 September 2024, a total of 7,778 calls have been received with callers requesting for drought-related information including onset of rains, water challenges, request for food, and Social Cash Transfer.
- During the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) 2024, the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock developed and distributed brochures and fact sheets on drought mitigation measures including silage and hay making, as well as feed formulations.
- To enhance public communication about the drought, the Public Private Dialogue Forum (PPDF) commenced the production of the weekly Zambia Drought National and Emergency Bulletin on Facebook, LinkedIn, PPDF websites and X.

Cash-for-Work Program: The Government commenced a Cash-for-Work Programme in September. This initiative allows beneficiaries to earn an income while engaging in community-building projects such as repairing infrastructure, rehabilitating community assets, and developing water points. The program is part of the larger strategy to provide sustainable livelihoods for drought-affected households. The Government has reserved ZMW 2 billion for the program.

- Development of the 2024/2025 National Multi-Hazard Contingency and National Emergency Response Plan (NMCP): DMMU hosted the 2024/2025 NMCP in Kabwe from 30 September, 2024 to 9 October 2024. The plan will ensure that communities at risk and humanitarian players are capacitated to prepare and respond to possible events emanating from the anticipated eventualities of the next rainy season. The National Contingency Plan will cover the period October 2024 to April 2025 during which the country is expected to be in the rainy season.



UN and Partners support to the Government

- UNDP prepared the second Situation analysis which was published on Relief Web on 2nd September 2024.
- UNDP continued to coordinate Radio programmes on energy crisis, health, environment, alternative energy driven by government, private sector and the UN.
- UNDP continued to coordinate the 3-minute daily drought response updates by the Government and partners on the ZNBC TV 1 during the 19:00 hours main news.
- From 7 to 14 September 2024, UNDP undertook a mission to Gwembe and Namwala in Southern province and Mwanzi and Shang'ombo districts in Western Province in, to collect drought footage highlighting the impacts of the drought and highlight interventions by different partners.
- UNDP is supporting the airing of 10 drought messages in four local languages namely Lozi, Tonga, Nyanja and Bemba on ZNBC Radio 1 and a 40-minute discussion program on drought.
- Various Partners are supporting Radio programmes on energy crisis, health, environment, alternative energy.
- Partners supported the orientation of the call center agents.
- Partners continue to support the operations of the Call Centre.

Challenges

- Resource mobilization is still a challenge with no resources mobilized in September.



Energy

Number of people targeted: 9.8million

Received amount: US\$ 291,600 (UNDP projects)

Number of partner operational: 08

Overall situation update

The power outages continue, officially, for 21 hours daily in the country. More awareness and information dissemination is required on the use of renewable energy sources, especially solar, this is impacting on the country's economy especially rural and MSMEs.

UN and Partners support to the Government

- UNDP will, under the Productive Use of Electricity (PUE) Project, pilot an appliance financing business model in mini-grid pilot community through partnership with mini-grid developers and local SMEs that suit the different needs of various stakeholders including women and youth. The project will disburse grants amounting USD120,000 to civil society, SMEs and private sector that demonstrate a business case for advancing PUE at the community level. Following a call for proposals, over 20 applications have been received and are under evaluation.
- The Ministry of Energy held the Energy Week Exhibitions from 25 to 27 September in Ndola to create awareness on renewable and alternative energy. The event was aimed at creating public awareness on renewable and alternative energy sources, government developments and program in the energy sector.

Challenges

- Resource mobilization is still a challenge.



Early Recovery and Resilience Building



Key Highlights

With support from UNDP, particularly its Early Recovery Crisis Bureau Support, the Cluster was able to make progress in key areas, as follows:

- A Policy Brief on Zambia Disaster Risk Management was finalized.
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) assessment tools developed.





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