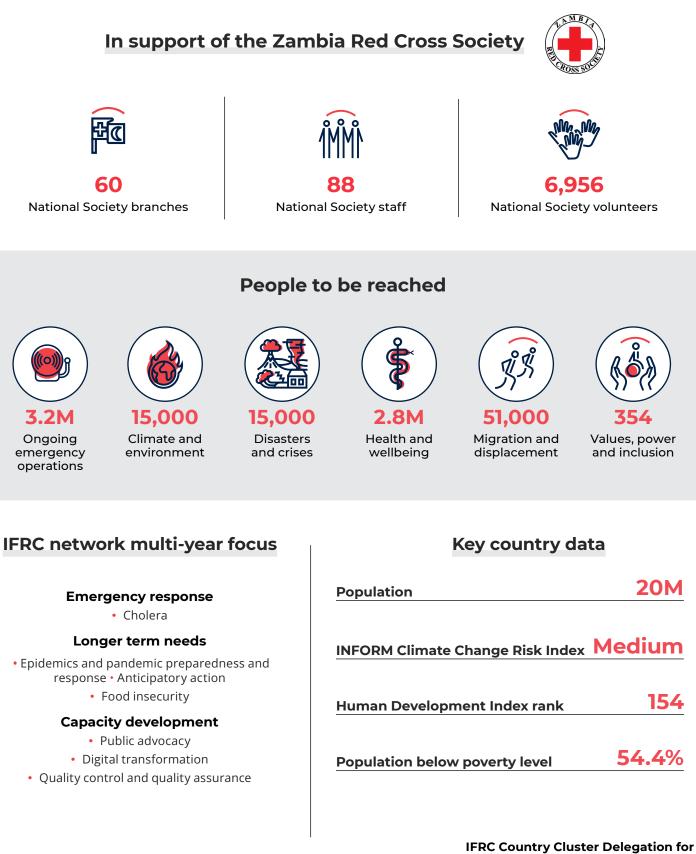


23 February 2024

### Funding Requirement CHF 7M



Zimbabwe, Zambia & Malawi, Harare







Epidemics



Cyclones



## **Funding requirements**

Total 7M CHF Through the IFRC 3.5M CHF Through Participating National Societies - 1.1M CHF Host National Society 2.4M CHF

### IFRC Breakdown

**3M** CHF Ongoing emergency operations

### Longer term needs

**150,000** CHF Climate and environment

**290,000** CHF Disasters and crises

**40,000** CHF Health and wellbeing

**51,000** CHF Enabling local actors

### Participating National Societies

British Red Cross\* Canadian Red Cross\* Italian Red Cross Japanese Red Cross\* The Netherlands Red Cros Swedish Red Cross\*

\*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2023.

## **IFRC Appeal codes**

Ongoing emergency response: MDRZM021 Longer-term needs: MAAZM002

# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Zambia Red Cross Society** is a humanitarian and developmental aid organization. It has been active in Zambia since the country's pre-independence days. Following independence in 1964, it was established by an act of Parliament as an independent voluntary aid organization and an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. The National Society was <u>admitted</u> to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1967.

The National Society is present in all 10 provinces of Zambia with 60 local branches, and a vast network of volunteers enabling it to respond to emergencies wherever they arise. The National Society's role is recognized by the local population, authorities and other stakeholders. The Zambia Red Cross has more than 50 trained national disaster response teams spread across the country, and in the past four years has responded to cholera outbreaks, population movement, floods, food insecurity and COVID-19. In 2023 alone the National Society supported people affected by floods in the Southern Province, and by outbreaks of both anthrax in various districts, and cholera in Eastern Province. The Zambia Red Cross has been part of an IFRC cholera preparedness project since October 2020, with the aim of strengthening communities' capacity and awareness in the cholera-prone areas of Mpulungu and Nsumbu in the north of the country. This has been key to helping the Zambia Red Cross generate awareness about cholera and safe hygiene

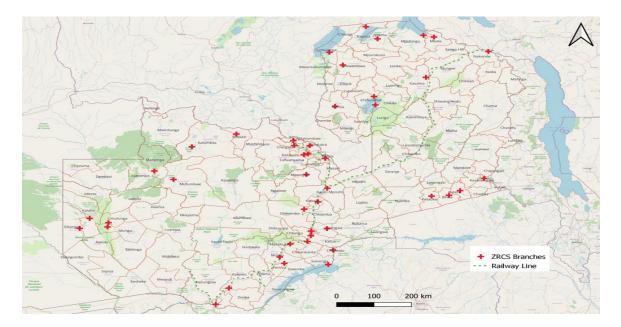
practices, and in supporting communities within cholera hotspots to protect themselves in the event of an outbreak.

The Zambia Red Cross also continued to work closely in 2023 with the Ministry of Health to curb COVID-19, focusing on risk communication and community engagement, contact tracing, mobilizing for COVID-19 vaccination, and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions in selected districts in Eastern, Southern, Copperbelt and Northwestern provinces.

Activities of the National Society are identified and prioritised through proper assessment of the humanitarian needs of communities. The Zambia Red Cross engages communities and fosters their ownership of projects to ensure successful and sustainable implementation.

The <u>Zambia Red Cross Strategic Plan 2021-2025</u> outlines the following priority goals, supported by organizational development priorities:

- Enabling people to anticipate, respond to and quickly recover from crises
- Empowering people to lead safe, healthy and dignified lives with opportunities to thrive
- Facilitating community mobilization for inclusivity and peace



# **IFRC NETWORK ACTION**

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Zambia is a large, landlocked, resource-rich country in the centre of southern Africa. It shares borders with Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Zambia's land is sparsely populated and almost half of its population is urban. Zambia is one of the world's youngest countries by median age. Its population of about 20 million is growing rapidly at 2.8% per year (Zamstats 2022), resulting in an anticipated doubling of the population every 25 years. This is likely to put pressure on the demand for jobs, healthcare and other social services. The country experienced its first economic contraction since 1998 in 2020, with its GDP experiencing a fall of 1.7% as COVID-19 pressed an economy already weakened by persistent droughts. The country is also prone to other recurring and threatening hazards, including floods and disease outbreaks.

According to the <u>Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023</u>, an estimated 47.9% of the population in Zambia is multidimensionally poor while an additional 23.9 percent is classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty. While poverty prevalence is generally higher in the rural and remote areas than in urban areas, the incidence of urban poverty is <u>expected to rise in the future</u>. This is due to the continuing growth of the urban population, outpacing the creation of employment and self-employment opportunities.

Politically, Zambia is considered a stable and peaceful country with successful democratic elections held every five years. However, there have been reports of pockets of violence during and after polls. Zambia's most recent presidential and general elections, held on 12 August 2021, saw a peaceful transition of power with the current president who is expected to govern the country for five years. The new government has introduced free education from primary to secondary levels and has employed additional teachers and health personnel across the country.

## **ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page Zambia

<b>Emergency Operation</b>	Cholera Outbreak Emergency Appeal 2024
Appeal number	MDRZM021
Duration	10 January 2024 to 31 December 2024
People affected	10 million
People to be assisted	3.2 million people
Funding requirement	Through the IFRC Emergency Appeal: CHF 3 million Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 4 million
Emergency Appeal	Cholera Outbreak Emergency Appeal 2024



January 2010, Zambia Red Cross trains volunteers in health and sanitation to assist people displaced by flooding (Photo: IFRC)

The ongoing cholera outbreak, which initially emerged in peri-urban areas of Lusaka Province in October 2023, has significantly impacted public health across various regions in Zambia. The repercussions extend beyond mere statistics and underscore the broader health implications.

The progression of the outbreak from Lusaka to Eastern, Northern, Central, Southern, Copperbelt, and North-Western Provinces emphasizes the widespread health threat. The cross-border linkages to Malawi and Mozambique highlight the interconnectedness of regions, posing challenges to containment efforts. At the district-level, the confirmation of cholera outbreaks in 39 districts intensifies the impact on local healthcare systems, placing a strain on resources and infrastructure.

As of 11 January 2024, there were a cumulative total of 8,176 cholera cases. With 333 reported deaths, the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of 4.0% reflects the severity of the outbreak and the challenges in providing timely medical intervention.

The Zambia Red Cross has been responding to the outbreak from the start, with the support of various partners. In response to the current cholera public health emergency and in alignment with the Government of Zambia's Cholera Response Plan, this Emergency Appeal aims to scale-up activities and geographical areas, allowing the Zambian Red Cross to respond to the new and increasing cholera caseload.

# Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The IFRC Emergency Appeal seeks to support the Zambia Red Cross in contributing to reduce the cholera outbreak, thereby reducing morbidity and mortality by working collaboratively with people and communities to promote improved hygiene and health behaviours, interrupting the chain of transmission, strengthening case management, and providing timely, open and honest information to communities. It seeks to reach a total of 3.2 million people in Lusaka province. The core objectives are:

- Save lives To reduce morbidity and mortality by ensuring early access to treatment in affected areas and support to Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV)) campaigns if and where they occur.
- 2. Interrupt transmission To prevent and control the spread of cholera through targeted interventions and risk communication (RCCE).
- 3. Reduce risk To reduce vulnerability and exposure through improved access to safe water and sanitation, improved hygiene practices.

The highlights of this assistance are:

### Health and care

- Provision of Oral Rehydration Points (ORPs) package and community-level health activities like pre-positioning of ORP kits and the training of volunteers to allow for the timely scale-up
- Provision of Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) and mental health and psychosocial support services

### Water, sanitation and hygiene

- Provision of liquid chlorine, distribution of multi-purpose soaps, construction of water points at health facilities, rehabilitation of hand pumps
- Provision of items including chlorine, water buckets, soap, sanitizers and handwashing stations for public places such as schools and health facilities
- Construction of latrines and distribution of portable handwashing facilities

### Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)

- Mainstreaming of PGI as per minimum standards in cholera interventions ensuring that all data is disaggregated by sex, age and disability. Dissemination of prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy among the staff and volunteers engaged in the response to ensure the protection of communities from harm
- Provision of solar lamps
- Provision of child-friendly key messages and information about cholera prevention and response

# Community engagement and accountability (CEA)

- Integration of risk communication and CEA across the response so that staff and volunteers have the knowledge and capacity to engage communities effectively
- Dissemination of accurate and trusted information and support to enable communities to take action and protect their health
- Establishment of help desks for feedback in all cholera treatment centres
- Expanding the use of toll-free numbers to provide extra services for receiving suggestions, complaints, and inquiries related to the epidemic from the wider affected communities



### **Climate and environment**

Zambia, like many other nations, is grappling with the profound and far-reaching <u>impacts of climate change</u>. The changing climate patterns and rising temperatures are exacting a toll on the country, affecting its diverse regions, vulnerable communities, and critical sectors. The negative consequences of climate change in Zambia are pervasive, encompassing agriculture, water resources, infrastructure, health, biodiversity, and the overall well-being of its people.

In the <u>rural expanses of Zambia, impacts of climate change</u> are more severe and visible. Erratic rainfall, prolonged dry spells, droughts, and floods disrupt subsistence farming. Crop failures from flooding and inadequate soil moisture are leading to lower yields, increasingly causing concerns about food insecurity and poverty. Amid these challenges, vulnerable groups such as women, children and marginalized communities find themselves disproportionately affected by climate-induced hardships. Other categories include people with disabilities, refugees in refugee camps and those with chronic illnesses. Their limited access to resources and adaptive capacity renders them even more susceptible to the adverse impacts of changing weather patterns.

The Zambian government through the Zambia Meteorological Department shared the 2023-2024 seasonal forecast. The prediction is that the country will receive normal to below normal rainfall and will be characterised by prolonged dry spells as the season will be influenced by El Niño phenomenon. The low rainfall and characterization of prolonged dry spells may also have an impact on the crops and livestock production. Thus, the chances of experiencing food insecurity in 2024 is very high. Currently the price of maize meal has risen significantly, and this may worsen.

The Zambian government has established a Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, which promotes climate change and disaster risk reduction activities in coordination with key stakeholders, including United Nations agencies. Several tree planting and preservation projects are ongoing across the country. In line with its commitments to international treaties such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the government plans to create a tree-based economy and to mitigate climate change. The 'Plant A Million' initiative is one example that aims to significantly contribute to reducing deforestation.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Zambia Red Cross is part of the <u>IFRC Global Climate</u> <u>Resilience Programme</u>, which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The Zambia Red Cross is a signatory to the <u>Climate and</u> <u>Environment Charter</u> for humanitarian organisations since June 2022, and seeks to:

- Undertake urgent action to reduce and adapt to the rising and evolving climate and environmental risks
- Integrate and anticipate short- and longer-term impacts of climate change and environmental degradation in its programmes and operations to help communities absorb, adapt, and transform to climate change
- Become recognized and approached as a key partner in efforts to support communities and government in scaling up climate action and working with the most atrisk communities
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation
- Identify, avoid, reduce, and mitigate adverse environmental impacts resulting from humanitarian response and long-term programmes, and integrate a green response approach into all its systems and practices

The Zambia Red Cross has invested into <u>forecast-based</u> <u>financing</u>, as a tool to guide timely and effective implementation of early actions when certain weather or climate forecasts show a high likelihood of impacting people. The National Society developed an <u>Early Action Protocol</u> (EAP) for <u>floods</u>, funded through the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF). The EAP was activated in 2023 to implement early actions to reduce and mitigate the impact of flooding in the Kafue and Kitwe Districts of Zambia. The National Society is also working on an EAP for drought. It will continue to work closely with the Water Resources Management Authority and Zambia Meteorological Department to forecast hydrometeorological-related hazards, aiming to reduce their impact. This coordination will help strengthen the country's preparedness and early warning/<u>early action</u> systems.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Develop community-based early warning systems
- Raise community awareness on climate change and environmental degradation
- Train and certify smallholder farmers at branch level on the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices
- Strengthen innovation by initiating sustainable projects aligned to environmental management, such as water point rehabilitation projects, rainwater harvesting, biodegradable menstrual hygiene project amongst adolescent girls and young women, sustainable nutritional gardens, livestock projects and <u>nature-based</u> <u>solutions</u>
- Continue to develop anticipatory action for designated hazards
- Install solar water pumping systems at schools and health facilities
- Build internal knowledge and awareness of climate change, climate action and climate-smart programming
- Strengthen volunteers' knowledge and skills to train communities in resilient techniques and anticipatory approaches

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The Zambia Red Cross is part of the global Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) between the IFRC and the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) with implementation support from The **Netherlands Red Cross** as lead EU National Society and the **IFRC**. Through the ECHO PPP, the Zambia Red Cross will further develop and update the Early Action Protocol for drought, using seasonal forecasts and flash flood alerts from the Zambia Meteorological Services. The <u>Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre</u> will provide technical support on early action for drought.

**The IFRC** supports the National Society's capacity strengthening efforts to better address climate change and environmental risks. It also supports the Zambia Red Cross with the forecast-based financing plan, including the development of the drought <u>Early Action Protocol</u> (EAP). The IFRC will assist in resource mobilization for activities focused on climate-smart agricultural practices and green WASH interventions, in promoting climate action and forging strategic partnerships that support sustainable environmental actions. The IFRC will also enable the National Society to align its efforts with the IFRC <u>Pan-African Tree Planting and Care</u> initiative.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** will support the Zambia Red Cross to develop and test a community-based early warning system.



### **Disasters and crises**

For real-time information on emergencies, see <u>IFRC GO</u> page Zambia

Zambia is highly vulnerable to a range of hazards, from floods, cyclones and droughts to epidemics and crop pests (African migratory locust, fall armyworm infestations). The country is experiencing an increase in the frequency and intensity of climate related disasters and those associated such as cholera epidemics mainly due to climate variation and climate change. Extreme weather events such as torrential rainfall, strong winds and storms are frequent. In recent years, severe floods have displaced communities and damaged infrastructure. Simultaneously, droughts have caused water scarcity, crop failures and food insecurity, especially in rural areas. These phenomena result in the loss of lives and destruction to

livelihood assets, leading to thousands of people needing humanitarian assistance, and have precipitated crises that include <u>severe food shortages and loss of income</u> for many families whose mainstay is dependent either directly or indirectly on rain fed subsistence agriculture. <u>Chronic food</u> <u>insecurity</u> is a persistent issue, with fluctuations in food availability.

Zambia's Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) coordinates emergency response. Local communities have their coping mechanisms but can be overwhelmed during major disasters. The Zambian government has established policies and plans, including the National Disaster Management Policy and the National Disaster Management Plan, to guide disaster risk reduction and response efforts. The Zambia National Disaster Risk Management Framework (2017–2030) seeks to operationalize and build on the Sendai Framework (and other frameworks) to facilitate the identification of priority areas to be included in national development planning processes.

# Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Through its auxiliary role, the Zambia Red Cross is a key responder to disasters and crises in the country. The Zambia Red Cross 2021-2025 Strategic Plan aims to ensure that people anticipate, respond to, and quickly recover from the crisis. To achieve this, the National Society conducts disaster preparedness activities such as community education and awareness raising activities and school-based activities, strengthening early warning systems and community mobilisation through innovative technologies. The Zambia Red Cross also works on strengthening capacities of volunteers to respond to disasters, such as through a certified training and refresher programmes.

In view of the prevailing food insecurity in the country, the Zambia Red Cross seeks to strengthen the capacities of smallholder farmers (and particularly women) to increase their food production through community-led projects, providing and supplying seeds, tools, fertilizers and basic equipment for producing cereals, pulses and vegetables. This will encourage production technologies which are more resilient to climate change and will encourage smallholder farmers to prioritize production of legumes, which can reduce dietary gaps in protein and niacin. The National Society intends to integrate food security and livelihoods in emergency, recovery and resilience building activities by developing integrated interventions that support basic needs, prevent asset depletion, and protect or help to recover livelihoods.

As part of its preparedness capacity, the Zambia Red Cross has developed and adopted a comprehensive needs assessment tool across all departments. It has also embraced unrestricted cash transfers as a dignified means of assisting people in need. With support from the IFRC, its staff and volunteers have been trained in cash and voucher assistance (CVA) and in the <u>Red Rose</u> data management tool. The National Society has also developed a standard operating procedure for cash, set up a mechanism for receiving complaints and feedback, and signed a contract with the financial service provider MTN.

The Zambia Red Cross works in close collaboration with various organizations including government structures based on its mandate. It seeks to strengthen strategic partnerships to improve aid and disaster relief effectiveness. The National Society will continue to establish Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) that will allow the organizations to work together in a transparent, equitable, respectful complementarity and with shared commitment to achieve the mutually agreed objectives.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Develop and implement hydrological and meteorological early warning systems in disaster-prone areas
- Conduct readiness activities for floods and drought in high risk districts
- Establish evacuation centres in selected communities
- Sensitize people in the flood prone and low laying areas to construct barriers and dykes to control flood water
- Identify focal points and training community members in their roles and responsibilities before during and after emergencies
- Ensure that people affected by crises and disasters receive timely and appropriate cash and voucher assistance
- Sensitize small holder farmers on post-harvest handling technics and grain storage practices
- Establish and construct solar drying centres at branch level
- Provide financial support, farming tools, and inputs to smallholder farmers
- Establish cooperatives or farmer groups in each district with a signed MOU and standard operating procedures
- Establish and support community-based income generating activities
- Expand disaster management technical teams and grassroots disaster management structures
- Enhance the capacities of volunteers to respond to disasters through certified training and mentorship programmes, and organise trainings in anticipatory action, CVA, community engagement and accountability (CEA), emergency needs assessment, and data management systems
- Procure and preposition non-food items

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Under the global <u>Programmatic Partnership</u> between the IFRC and DG ECHO, and with support from The **Netherlands Red Cross** and the **IFRC**, the Zambia Red Cross will further strengthen community preparedness for disasters. Drawing on the results of the <u>enhanced vulnerability and capacity</u> <u>assessments (IFRC-eVCA)</u>, communities will be supported to develop risk management and contingency plans. The Zambia Red Cross will increase its response capacity in line with the multi-hazard contingency plans developed with national authorities. The National Society will preposition stock in strategic locations. The National Society will further improve its capacity to deliver <u>cash and voucher assistance</u>, implementing a data verification system.

**The IFRC** supports the National Society in various areas of disaster risk management. The IFRC will help the National Society to build its capacity for cash and voucher assistance and to develop integrated interventions that support basic needs, prevent asset depletion, and protect, strengthen or

help to recover livelihoods. The IFRC has provided the Zambia Red Cross with resources to enable it to respond to disasters such as floods and drought in the country. In 2023, the IFRC provided allocation from the DREF for floods in the Southern Province, both as part of the activation of an EAP and to cover additional needs. IFRC mechanisms such as the DREF and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises.



## Health and wellbeing

Zambia faces a double disease burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. There is a high prevalence of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, diarrhoea and intestinal worms, alongside rising rates of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes mellitus, cancer and chronic respiratory disease. Malaria is endemic in all of Zambia's 10 provinces, both in urban and rural areas. Endemic neglected tropical diseases include lymphatic filariasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, schistosomiasis, and trachoma.

Cholera outbreaks are again a major concern in Zambia. On 11 April 2022, a cholera outbreak was declared in Lusaka, which had the potential to mirror the 2017–2018 outbreak and spread across the country. Another outbreak was declared in January 2023 in the eastern part of the country, and again in October the same year, in Lusaka (see also under ongoing emergency response section). Although cholera is endemic in Zambia, there had been no outbreaks since 2019, owing to various cholera prevention measures implemented under the country's Multi-Sectoral National Cholera Elimination Plan.. The Zambian Government has joined global efforts to eliminate cholera, subscribing to the Global Task Force on Cholera Control strategy which aims to eliminate cholera worldwide by 2030.

Additionally, Zambia is experiencing an outbreak of anthrax which was declared by the Minister of Health on the 1st of November 2023. The Ministry of Health has indicated that it is doing everything possible to curb the spread of disease. The anthrax outbreak of this magnitude has not been experienced in Zambia since 2011 when there was an outbreak in the district of Chama in the eastern province. Thereafter, sporadic cases were experienced and were contained before spreading further to other areas.

Zambia has also been experiencing recurring outbreaks of other vaccine-preventable diseases, especially measles. According to a measles situational report the outbreak has not spared any of Zambia's ten provinces, affecting both urban and rural areas. As of 4th October 2023, the cumulative number of suspected measles cases reached a worrying 1,651, with 469 cases confirmed through laboratory testing. Measles and rubella remain significant contributors to childhood morbidity and mortality in most rural and urban populations in Zambia. While Zambia has made substantial progress in improving vaccination coverage, addressing the issues of zero-dose and under-immunized children remains a paramount concern.

Rural areas are poorly served in comparison with urban areas when it comes to access to health care. There are a mere 70 clinical health workers per 100,000 people in rural areas, compared with 159 per 100,000 people in urban areas. A severe shortage of qualified clinical staff in more remote areas means that some clinics are run by unqualified personnel or by just one qualified practitioner.

Zambia has made significant progress in improving maternal and child health. Maternal mortality rates have steadily decreased from 591 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2007 to 278 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2018. Similarly, infant mortality rates have declined from 45 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2013/2014 to 42 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018. Stunting prevalence remains high but is decreasing.

Access to adequate water, sanitation and hygiene services is also unequal in Zambia. An estimated 4.8 million Zambians do not have regular access to clean water and 6.6 million do not have access to adequate sanitation facilities. Access to improved sources of water in rural areas is just 53 per cent, compared with 90 per cent in urban areas. This results in poor water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) conditions, emerging as a major factor in the country's high rates of childhood diarrhoea, which subsequently translates into high rates of malnutrition. Girls and women are particularly affected by poor WASH conditions.

## Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Zambia Red Cross is actively involved in addressing the country's health priorities and is monitoring key health indicators. As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the Zambia Red Cross works on the frontline of epidemics. Offering community-based health and first aid will remain an integral part of the National Society's efforts to complement the Ministry of Health's work in providing equitable access to health care services for communities in need. The National Society trains more than 2,000 people in workplace First Aid every year and offers community based First Aid training and care to more than 6,000 people in communities. Over recent years, the Zambia Red Cross has implemented broader communitybased health projects that focus on preventing and managing the effects of major causes of death in children under five years of age, including diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections. It has built a strong partnership with the Ministry of Health and specializes in interventions for maternal and child health, water, sanitation and hygiene, and behaviour change communication. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Zambia Red Cross worked jointly with the Ministry of Health on risk communication and community engagement, contact tracing, hygiene promotion, rehabilitation of boreholes, psychological support and strengthening the capacity of Ministry of Health and frontline workers.

The Zambia Red Cross seeks to remain an active stakeholder in realizing the government's Multi-Sectoral National Cholera Elimination Plan. The IFRC and the Zambia Red Cross host a country support platform officer who works with the Government and other stakeholders to realize the Multi-Sectoral National Cholera Elimination Plan. The National Society's main work revolves around a preparedness programme that targets branches in cholera hotspots. This involves building the capacity of branches and community volunteers to respond with:

- Community mobilization and awareness raising around hygiene promotion
- Community case management by providing oral rehydration therapies and scaling up oral rehydration point kits
- Emergency water, sanitation and hygiene interventions to break transmission at household and community levels, with prepositioned household hygiene and disinfection kits
- Support to both preventative and response-related oral cholera vaccine campaign

### Planned activities in 2024

- Mobilise communities for national vaccination campaigns, and support the identification of children who are underdose and the zero-dose children
- Promoting health, disease prevention and communitybased care activities, focusing on people in vulnerable circumstances
- Expanding the reach, quality and modalities of first aid activities, including training volunteers, staff and members of the public in all contexts

- Developing commercial first aid models to promote financial sustainability and accelerate the National Society's ability to sustain its services
- Meeting the mental health and psychosocial support needs of communities, volunteers and staff
- Providing contextually appropriate sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health services
- Carrying out epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response activities, including building and maintaining community-level capacity to effectively detect, prevent and respond to outbreaks of infectious disease
- Train and certify Red Cross volunteers on monthly analysis of nutrition surveillance
- Strengthen the disaster management training curriculum to include novel disease outbreaks
- Capitalize on its auxiliary role and ensure that it is on relevant country level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

Under the global Programmatic Partnership between the IFRC and DG ECHO, the Zambia Red Cross will continue to increase capacity in <u>epidemic and pandemic preparedness</u> and response. The National Society will work with satellite disaster management committees on health promotion activities in communities and schools. The Zambia Red Cross will work with the Ministry of Health on <u>community-based</u> <u>surveillance</u> for the detection, reporting, and response to cholera and other diseases of epidemic potential.

**IFRC** mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In addition to the ongoing Emergency Appeal for cholera, the IFRC provided an <u>IFRC-DREF</u> allocation of CHF 290,200 to the National Society in support of its response to an anthrax outbreak in October 2023. The IFRC-DREF operation is supporting 200,000 affected people. The IFRC will also continue to:

- Help the Zambia Red Cross effectively network and link with other actors such as Global Health Security Agenda, Africa CDC, World Health Organization and the African Union on health, nutrition, immunization and public health
- Support and link the National Society with other sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health platforms
- Build the capacity of the National Society to identify and support community-led solutions as being key to controlling <u>epidemic and pandemics</u>

- Provide guidance, trainings, and tools to strengthen community early warning, preparedness and response plans
- Support the Zambia Red Cross to participate in cholera response activities through operating room personnel trainings and sub-national cholera hotspot mapping exercises
- Support the National Society in promoting good hygiene practices through health education and reducing environmental health risks

The **Netherlands Red Cross** will continue to support the Zambia Red Cross with water, sanitation, hygiene and community-based health programmes. This will include reproductive health, community health, water and sanitation, pneumonia reduction and health resilience programmes.



Zambia hosts almost 95,000 'people of concern', as defined by the <u>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</u>. Of these, 71,000 are refugees, 5,700 are asylum seekers and 17,500 are former refugees. Migration dynamics in Zambia are complex. It is a country of origin, transit and destination for men, women and children. These include labour migrants, asylum seekers, irregular migrants and victims of human trafficking within the Southern Africa region and beyond.

Migration data and analysis in Zambia is fragmented, and administrative records are not collected for the purposes of measuring migration in its entirety. Migration has an impact on national population change, the environment and trends in urbanization.

Zambia's geographic proximity to the DRC means it experiences periodic flows of asylum seekers into the country. These asylum seekers need comprehensive protection assistance and long-term durable solutions. As part of the durable solutions developed for refugees, Zambia provides local integration assistance to former refugees from Angola and Rwanda, whose refugee status in Zambia has ceased in recent years.

Extreme weather events and disasters such as floods and persistent droughts contribute to the internal displacement of people in Zambia. Other factors contributing to internal displacement include land disputes, development projects, encroachment of populations on land meant for other activities, and conflicts in areas along national borders.

The Ministry of Home Affairs coordinates assistance to externally displaced people, in collaboration with the UNHCR and other actors such as the Zambia Red Cross, Oxfam, World Vision and the International Organization for Migration. Assistance to internally displaced people is coordinated by the government's Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit under the office of the vice-president, working with the Zambia Red Cross as well as other actors such as Catholic Relief Services, World Vision, Habitat for Humanity and Caritas.

## Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Zambia Red Cross responds to the pressing needs of migrants and displaced people through its disaster and health interventions. The Zambia Red Cross will continue to effectively and efficiently support the government and other stakeholders involved in managing the immediate needs of the refugees and people of concern. The Zambia Red Cross offers restoring family links (RFL) services, identified as one of the key needs in the refugee camps and transit centre. It will continue building capacity through strengthening Lusaka (Makeni Transit Centre) and Maheba and Mantapala field offices to be able to continuously provide quality RFL services.

The National Society's will continue supporting migration activities in line with its 2021-25 Strategic Plan. A key area of focus will be resource mobilization initiatives for ensuring that people lead safe, healthy, and dignified lives and have opportunities to thrive. It will also ensure provision of food, water and sanitation, protection as well as institutional latrines, livelihood support and environmental protection.

#### Planned activities in 2024

- Distribute food and non-food items such as hygiene kits or and health delivery service equipment delivered to confined spaces
- Assist migrants in need with preventive and rehabilitative nutritional support

- Reach family contacts through means of telecommunication
- Support existing humanitarian service points (<u>HSPs</u>) established for migrants and displaced persons in Zambia to provide and link to child protection
- Develop information, education and communication materials specifically for confined spaces and translate into relevant foreign languages
- Develop and activate contingency and response plan for population movement
- Train volunteers in First Aid, sensitisation to healthseeking behaviours and provision of mental health psychological social support to migrants and refugees

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Zambia Red Cross to implement services for vulnerable migrants and refugees, prepare for population movement, mobilize resources for increased engagement, and support and link the National Society with other migration-related actors and platforms.

As part of wider Movement support, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) handed over Restoring Family Links (RFL) services to the National Society in 2024. It will continue building the National Society capacity to be able to manage RFL effectively and efficiently by developing systems, tools, systems and institutionalize them for improved service redelivery.



## Values, power and inclusion

Levels of inequality between rural and urban areas of Zambia continue to rise, disproportionately affecting girls and women. According to the World Bank's 2021 report Empowering Rural Women in Zambia to Move out of Poverty, women and adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable as they tend to have less knowledge and fewer skills to help them realize their potential. Various research documents acknowledge that discrimination against women in Zambia is embodied in traditional rules and practices resulting in lasting constraints on women's socio-economic and political empowerment and progress. At community and household levels, women are in most cases restricted from participating in important decisions such as resource planning and use, family planning and access to services such as health and education.

Child marriage remains high, at 29 per cent for girls, according to the Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (2018). Nearly one in five (18 per cent) of learners who drop out of school do so because of teen pregnancy or child marriage, with 96.4 per cent of those affected being girls. 14.8 per cent of head teachers surveyed had received reports of child sexual abuse. The placing of children in institutional care has increased by 20.8 per cent. COVID-19 has triggered mental health issues, including anxiety and depression linked to food insecurity, household violence and alcohol consumption at home. According to UNICEF, child migration continues to be a concern and new migrations routes have emerged.

According to statistics from the Zambia Police Victim Support Unit, there has been a steady increase in reported cases of gender-based violence. In 2012, 13,000 cases were reported. In 2020, this number had risen to 26,000 cases. These numbers have since reduced in 2021, dropping to 21,000. This represents a 23 per cent reduction. Disasters also increase the vulnerability of the population, and heightens their risk of adopting negative coping strategies. Among these are rising incidences of children dropping out of school, child marriages, the coercion of women and children into forced labour as well as human and child trafficking and engaging in transactional sex for survival. In Zambia, disaster risk communication takes place via different networks, and communication channels in communities during disease outbreak, disasters and crisis include face-to face chats, community meetings, telephone calls, group meetings, mass media such as television, tailored mass media such as reverse 911 services and interactive social media. Telecommunication plays a crucial role in delivering timely and precise information to the affected communities and coordinating rescue and relief efforts.

An estimated 7.2 per cent of Zambia's population live with a disability. Among other socio-economic challenges, people living with disabilities face limitations in accessing equitable, quality health care. The situation is worse for women and girls living with disabilities, as they are more likely to be exposed to sexual abuse and other forms of physical and mental abuse. According to the United Nations Population Fund, women living with disabilities are up to 10 times more likely to experience sexual violence, and young people living with disabilities are up to four times more likely to experience.

The Zambian Government is committed to reducing poverty and vulnerability among the general population, with a specific focus on the poor and vulnerable segments of society. The implementation of social protection programmes faces challenges of fragmentation and resourcing, and are not sufficiently evaluated. Specific social protection programmes are being implemented for:

- Rehabilitation of street children
- Provision of places of safety and children's homes
- Addressing transsexual and gender-based violence
- Combating human trafficking and child labour
- Correctional services
- Legal aid services

## Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Zambia Red Cross seeks to mainstream protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) throughout its activities to ensure communities' dignity, access, participation and safety. Recognizing that peoples' needs, risks and coping strategies vary significantly by age, gender, disability and background, the National Society pays particular attention to gender and diversity analysis and to the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups. Community vulnerability assessments and analysis consider gender and diversity and, during anticipatory actions and disaster response, all sectors seek to meet the IFRC minimum standards on protection, gender and inclusion.

The Zambia Red Cross aims to adopt programming modalities that enable effective community engagement and respect for local knowledge, expertise and perspectives. It does this by setting up systems that enable communities to access trusted, actionable information, to participate in programme design, and to provide feedback. The National Society intends to develop a <u>community engagement and accountability</u> (CEA) performance measurement framework with clear benchmarks to ensure consistency and alignment with international commitments, such as the Core Humanitarian Standards for Quality and Accountability, and CEA commitments of the Movement. It also seeks to establish effective community feedback mechanisms in all areas of operation to disseminate, collect, analyse, respond, and act on information shared by citizens to ensure greater community participation.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Set up and run dignity access participation and safety centres in displacement camps
- Work with specialists and trained volunteers to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence or trafficking in persons by providing comprehensive support through case management, coordinated referrals, on-site counselling and legal assistance when needed
- Run a shelter for children who are unhoused

- Establish safe spaces to support survivors of genderbased violence and engage with stakeholders for advocacy around this programme
- Map, test and monitor referral pathways and develop standard operating procedures for responding to survivors of violence, exploitation or abuse
- Design and implement a disaster preparedness programme that specifically addresses the needs of persons with disabilities
- Design and implement a livelihood and life skills programme targeting women and girls specifically addressing their practical and strategic needs for economic opportunities as in incoming generating programmes
- Design and implement a community-based project to address violence in the community
- Run a comprehensive social inclusion service for marginalized groups, including access to education, training, employment and legal and <u>mental health and</u> <u>psychosocial support (MHPSS)</u> based on local needs
- Run advocacy campaigns on safeguarding during disasters
- Advocate for awareness on protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) among partners and stakeholders
- Carry out awareness campaigns and information dissemination of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement to helps build a culture of respect for the volunteers and members

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC and The Netherlands Red Cross will support the Zambian Red Cross with mainstreaming PGI and CEA across its work, including as part of the global <u>Programmatic Partnership</u> between the IFRC and DG ECHO.

## **ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS**

The Zambia Red Cross is committed to pursuing its institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2013. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Zambia Red Cross is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (IFRC-PER) process and is at the action and accountability phase. The IFRC-PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure

and analyze the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism and ultimately take the actions necessary to improve it.

The National Society intends to reach a point of stability, following several years of frequent changes and challenges. The National Society has a governance structure in place, consisting of board members, a national council which includes representatives of the volunteers, and systems that effectively enable the National Society to reach its intended objectives.



# Strategic and operational coordination

# Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Strengthening strategic partnerships and collaborations will continue to be a high priority for the Zambia Red Cross. Key strategic partnerships are essential in improving the National Society's response capabilities, accessibility to essential technical expertise, and increasing its resource mobilisation base. It strives to improve relationships with local stakeholders and public authorities at various local regional and district levels, and improve auxiliary role through increased engagements with public authorities including by having cooperation agreements in place. The National Society's multiyear objectives include:

- Partnership engagement and development with all existing and potential partners as articulated in the partnership mapping survey and the Zambia Red Cross partnership development strategy
- Explore innovative fundraising mechanisms which include various campaigns, events, and linkages with corporate partners

- Exchange vital information regarding humanitarian needs and updates
- Establish formal agreements (MOUs) with strategic partners such as the Ministry of Health, UN Agencies (UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF) and other non-governmental organizations to improve coordination, collaborative efforts and knowledge exchange

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** supports the Zambia Red Cross in external engagement and resource mobilization, . It will support the National Society in tapping into the domestic funding pool on corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes of organizations by conducting a market survey.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** and the **Swiss Red Cross** will support the Zambia Red Cross in raising domestic funds by conducting a market survey.



# Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society will continue to strengthen its foundations, functioning and structures, and its current plan includes to:

- Review the Zambia Red Cross Act
- Review the National Society's constitution
- Develop an electoral code of conduct for the National Society
- Improve leadership capacity through system improvements, policy development, and leadership induction at all levels
- Invest in branch development including through deploying the new branch model, recruiting full time branch administrators and field officers, strengthening communication at all levels, conducting branch income assessments and supporting branches in project proposal writing
- Strengthen the working conditions, safety and security of volunteers and members, through provision of all required tools, uniforms and equipment
- Strengthen volunteer accountability through the review of the volunteer code of conduct

- Strengthen capacities at all levels through the recruitment of quality members and volunteers
- Create youth by-laws and strengthen youth structures through a robust framework for <u>youth engagement</u>
- Strengthen school clubs and youth links by involving young individuals in humanitarian activities
- Secure sustainability through investment funding and strengthen the National Society's financial sustainability through grants

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** supports the Zambia Red Cross for all its National Society development priorities, and will assist with the development of the National Society development plan, and applications to IFRC National Society development funding mechanisms. The IFRC will also promote peer to peer support.

The **Italian Red Cross** supports the Zambia Red Cross with branch development and youth engagement through income-generating activities in the Mungwi, Mansa and Lusaka branches.



# Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Zambia Red Cross seeks to acquire the communications and public advocacy resources and advice it needs in order to increase its impact, boost public trust and improve understanding of its role and activities. It aims to strengthen its auxiliary role, positioning and voice in humanitarian and development fora. Beyond its positioning, humanitarian diplomacy will be key to ensure that debate and discussion on humanitarian response in favour of vulnerable communities will remain on the agenda of targeted stakeholders. Its main objectives are to:

• Scale up community events and sensitization programmes through sports and cultural events including edutainment activities that will attract young people

- Carry out advocacy and awareness of military personnel in International Humanitarian Law and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement activities
- Position itself with national authorities and international partners operational in Zambia as a leading local humanitarian responder
- Increase visibility, acceptance and support necessary for operationalization of activities

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the Zambia Red Cross with provision of communications and public advocacy resources. It will empower the National Society to enhance its impact, boost public trust and improve understanding of its role and activities. The IFRC will also provide the Zambia Red Cross support to strengthen its auxiliary role, positioning and voice in humanitarian and development fora.



# Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The National Society has developed a fraud and corruption prevention policy that explicitly prohibits fraud and corruption. A risk management framework has been established that allows the organisation to regularly assess its exposure to fraud and corruption and any other type of risks, by maintaining a working organisational risk register as well as departmental risk registers. This allows the Zambia Red Cross to identify vulnerable areas and take proactive measures to mitigate those risks. Continuous communication of these policies and frameworks throughout the organisation has been a priority.

The Zambia Red Cross sees donor accountability as critical, and ensures it uses funds for its intended purpose, providing transparent reporting. It seeks to strengthen accountability and monitoring systems on community led projects through structured reporting frameworks.

The Zambia Red Cross invests in its digital transformation through multifaceted approach aimed at enhancing its effectiveness and responsiveness. This encompasses the growth of digital maturity within the National Society and its thematic sectors, emphasizing the adoption of new technologies and practices. Key components include fostering data and digital literacy among staff, promoting data-driven decision-making, and enabling services through digital tools.

The National Society also strives to inspire change, experiment new ideas and technologies, integrate innovation as a standard practice. Recognizing local innovation and fostering collaborations with various stakeholders will be essential elements in driving innovation forward.

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** supports the Zambia Red Cross for all its accountability efforts, as part of National Society development. The IFRC will also provide support to the National Society digital transformation, fostering data and digital literacy among staff, promoting data-driven decision-making and enabling services through digital tools, and building a reliable digital infrastructure to support initiatives.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** will provide support to digital transformation through its <u>510 Initiative</u>.

# THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Zambia Red Cross from its country cluster delegation in Harare, Zimbabwe, as well as from its regional office in Nairobi. It has a status agreement with the Government of Zambia, signed in 2001. The IFRC's strategic role is to support the Zambia Red Cross to address key humanitarian challenges and trends, and to ensure that it stays up to date, relevant and influential within Zambia. The IFRC supports National Society development to ensure that the Zambia Red Cross is prepared to respond to emergencies, while achieving and maintaining a sustainable organization

aligned to the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The IFRC supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Zambia Red Cross through a number of DREF and Emergency Appeal <u>operations</u> in relation to cholera and other disease outbreaks, floods, population movement, drought and food insecurity. The IFRC is also working with national stakeholders on cholera elimination through cholera platform support.

## **IFRC Membership coordination**

To support the Zambia Red Cross, the IFRC works closely with it and member National Societies to assess the wider humanitarian context, and the National Society's particular needs and priorities, and develop strategies to address these. These include obtaining greater humanitarian access, improving acceptance in Zambia, mobilizing funding and other resources, crafting consistent public messaging and monitoring the progress of various initiatives. It also ensures that all strategies and programmes adopted by the National Society have clarity on their humanitarian and development aims and work to boost the auxiliary role of the Zambia Red Cross in the country.

The Zambia Red Cross is part of the four IFRC <u>Pan-African</u> <u>initiatives</u> focusing on Tree Planting and Care, Zero Hunger, Red Ready and National Society Development. and a member of relevant Red Cross Red Crescent networks, notably the Southern Africa Partnerships of Red Cross Societies.

The National Society is part of the global <u>Pilot Programmatic</u> <u>Partnership between the Directorate-General for European</u> <u>Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)</u> and the IFRC, with the implementation support of the Netherlands Red Cross and the IFRC. This partnership focuses on disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness, cash and voucher assistance, and community engagement and accountability, and meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with greater impact. The coordination enables greater alignment of support and complementarity, and leverages the IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities, helping to fulfil the ambitions of the European Union as the world's biggest donor for international aid.

Coordination meetings take place regularly in Zambia between the National Society and The Netherlands Red Cross, which is the only participating National Society present in the country.

The **Netherlands Red Cross** has supported the Zambia Red Cross with water, sanitation, hygiene and community-based health programmes for a number of years. This work includes reproductive health, community health, water and sanitation, pneumonia reduction and health resilience programmes. During the COVID-19 outbreak, the Netherlands Red Cross supported the Zambia Red Cross with risk communication and community engagement, epidemic control, case management, contact tracing, and the provision of safe water and hygiene promotion.

The **Italian Red Cross** supports the Zambia Red Cross with branch development through income-generating activities in the Mungwi, Mansa and Lusaka branches. It is not currently present in the country.



November 2020, Zambia Red Cross Society carrying out social mobilisation activities for a Measles/Rubella campaign to improve immunisation coverage in the country (Photo: ZRCS)

## Participating National Society Support



### **Movement coordination**

The Zambia Red Cross collaborates closely with the IFRC, ICRC and The Netherlands Red Cross, ensuring an aligned approach across the Movement in support of its priorities. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted Seville Agreement 2.0.

As the ICRC does not have a presence in Zambia, the country is supported by its regional delegation in Zimbabwe. Using

innovative tools, ICRC aims to address the humanitarian consequences of armed violence and migration; to support authorities to trace missing persons, to reconnect separated families; to strengthen respect for and compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and international standards of policing; and to support the National Society in improving its capacity to be the first responder to disasters.

## Coordination with other actors

In line with its auxiliary role, the Zambia Red Cross maintains close coordination with a range of ministries, departments and government bodies, demonstrated by its engagement in disaster risk management, health, water, sanitation and hygiene.

The National Society has an agreement with the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit to work with disaster management committees at province, district and satellite levels, as well as on relief distribution and camp management. It has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Zambia National Public Health Institute, which is the part of the Ministry of Health which is responsible for public health security and surveillance.

The Zambia Red Cross also has agreements with the Water Resource Management Authority, the Zambia Police and the Zambia Army, as well as a signed contract with financial service provider MTN for cash and voucher assistance activities. Further working relationships, understanding and collaboration are in place between the National Society and the Zambia Meteorological Department, Ministry of Education's school clubs, Mulungushi University, Zambia News and Information Services, Zambia Air Force, and the Ministry of Community Development and Social Welfare.

The Zambia Red Cross is one of the few member organizations of the National Disaster Management Consultative Forum, National Cash Working Group and Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, which is hosted by the Zambian Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU). This platform gathers all agencies and organizations working on disaster risk reduction in Zambia to ensure coordination and sharing of experience. Within the framework of the Disaster Management Act, a sub-group has been formed at national level to focus on anticipatory action and the management of the forecast-based action mechanisms for riverine floods. This sub-group is made up of the Zambia Red Cross and several state technical services.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans
- Subscribe for updates
- Donor response on IFRC website
- Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) data
- Operational information: IFRC GO platform
- National Society data: IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System
- Evaluations database

This plan reflects the priorities of the Zambia Red Cross, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC <u>Strategy 2030</u>, representing the collective ambitions of IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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