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

The situation

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

The prolonged dry spells between January and March 2019 affected Southern, Western, and parts of North Western, Central and Eastern provinces.

In most districts, most households, who were facing the second consecutive season with prolonged dry spells, had limited and depleted stocks of cereal, with cereals depleting during the first three post-harvest months of April - June 2019 continuing up to March/April of 2020 consumption period. Most of these households rely entirely on rain-fed crop production for food and income.

The latest government official report states that 55 districts are in IPC phase 3 (crisis) and 3 already in phase 4 (emergency). A total population of 1.7 million is affected. Further, the currently affected population is expected to rise to 2.3 million by March 2020.

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1 Zambia IPC Report, 2019
**Table 1: Phase Classification with affected population as per the 2019 IPC Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 5</th>
<th>0 People in Catastrophe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 4</td>
<td>270,000 People in Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 3</td>
<td>1,390,000 People in Crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 2</td>
<td>2,820,000 People in Stress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 1</td>
<td>4,770,000 People minimally food insecure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CURRENT MAY 2019 - SEPTEMBER 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase 5</th>
<th>0 People in Catastrophe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 4</td>
<td>416,000 People in Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 3</td>
<td>1,840,000 People in Crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 2</td>
<td>3,120,000 People in Stress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase 1</td>
<td>4,120,000 People minimally food insecure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROJECTED OCTOBER 2019 - MARCH 2020**

**Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

Currently the seven (7) Branches of the National Society in Eastern, Southern, North-Western and Western provinces are distributing relief food (mealie meal) on behalf of the government in which 70 volunteers and 5 members of staff are involved. There is no specific target, but support is given based on the resources available. The government registers the beneficiaries, and the Red Cross facilitates the validation with the community leadership before distribution.

The NS has embarked upon the process of developing its Food Insecurity Response plan, and it aims to deliver assistance to 109,076 people (18,180 HH) affected by food insecurity focusing on provision of immediate food needs (CBI and direct distribution), WASH, Health, Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and National Society Capacity Strengthening. The support is intended to cover four (4) provinces Southern (Sinazongwe, Zimba, Pemba, Monze districts); Western (Limulunga, Kalabo districts); North Western Province (Kabompo, Chavuma and Zambezi districts); and Eastern Province (Lundazi and Petauke districts).

The NS has been in contact with the through Disaster Management and Mitigating Unit (DMMU) which is coordinating the geographical coverage affected districts by different stakeholders. The coordination helps ensure there is no duplication of services in the affected areas.

As part of its disaster preparedness activities, ZRCS has embarked on cash readiness programme with technical support by the Netherlands RC and technical support from IFRC. The National Society resolved to apply CBI in this response which is also expected to enhance the capacity to use cash. The ZRCS will activate the already existing (standing) agreements with the Financial Service Providers (Mobile Money Transfer) to provide cash to the affected households.
External Coordination and Partnerships

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

Red Cross Movement Coordination: Regular coordination meetings are held between Zambia Red Cross and the Netherlands RC. Netherlands RC is supporting two projects: Strengthening Preparedness for Disaster Response. The aim of the project is to build the preparedness capacity of the NS to be able to respond to disaster. The project focuses on cash-based interventions, data preparedness and forecast based financing. Both ICRC and Netherlands Red Cross are supporting the Population Movement operation, implemented by the national society. The NS has been working closely with IFRC Cluster office in Pretoria brainstorming the appropriate interventions for the food insecurity situation in Zambia.

Other coordination mechanisms: World vision is hosting and chairing the coordination meetings which are aimed at bringing together various key stakeholders to address the drought situation in Southern and Western Province of Zambia. The coordination meetings are also attended by government (DMMU), UN Agencies (UNDP, FAO, WFP, UNICEF), local and international NGOs. The meetings are usually attended by high level decision makers to ensure quick and important decisions are made timely. ZRCS is part of the coordination team and works hand in hand with other stakeholders through participation in the meetings.
Contact information
For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

For Zambia Red Cross
- Mr. Kaitano Chungu, Secretary General, ZRCS, email: kaitano.chungu@redcross.org.zm
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For IFRC Country Cluster Support Team

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

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

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.

The IFRC’s work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:
1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.