

**ZAMBIA  
RAPID RESPONSE  
DROUGHT  
2024**

**24-RR-ZMB-64631**

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Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator

## PART I – ALLOCATION OVERVIEW

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### Reporting Process and Consultation Summary:

Please indicate when the After-Action Review (AAR) was conducted and who participated.

13/02/2025

An AAR was conducted on February 13, 2025 and inputs were collected from both agencies and implementing partners, including the Ministry of Agriculture.

Some of the key lessons learned which transpired from the discussions were:

#### Coordination:

- Coordination efforts require greater participation from relevant UN agencies across most clusters, along with improved integration of complementary interventions to enhance efficiency.
- While joint monitoring among partners was emphasized, the absence of structured sub-national coordination mechanisms limited effectiveness. Strengthening these mechanisms was identified as a priority.
- Enhancing the capacity of the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) is necessary to improve its ability to effectively coordinate cluster activities.

#### Implementation Timeliness:

- Establishing a trigger-based response mechanism was recommended to determine the optimal timing for interventions and enhance efficiency.
- Strengthening assessment processes through timely evaluations and the creation of a UN standing team using standardized multisectoral tools was identified as a priority.
- Future efforts should focus on pre-identifying potential implementing partners and utilizing a coordinated procurement process, including emergency waivers, to improve response effectiveness.

#### Monitoring and Data Collection:

- Reliance on paper-based systems led to underreported feedback. Moving to digital platforms could streamline real-time data analysis and improve reporting.
- Stronger collaboration with government agencies in monitoring activities is needed for more accurate data collection.

#### Anticipatory Action:

- Greater utilization of anticipatory triggers and strengthened anticipatory action programming for both slow and sudden onset emergencies were recommended to improve response effectiveness.
- Conducting simulations for different response scenarios was proposed to enhance preparedness and coordination among stakeholders.
- Enhancing institutional preparedness and anticipatory action was emphasized to reduce reliance on reactive responses and ensure a more proactive approach.

#### Operations:

- Conducting cost-efficiency and effectiveness studies on transfer modalities, as well as the value and composition of the food basket, was recommended to optimize resource allocation.
- Ensuring that response efforts are based on the actual number of people in each household was emphasized to improve targeting and effectiveness.

Please confirm that the report on the use of CERF funds was discussed with the Humanitarian and/or UN Country Team (HCT/UNCT).

Yes  No

The RC and heads of recipient agencies reviewed the report.

Please confirm that the final version of this report was shared for review with in-country stakeholders (i.e. the CERF recipient agencies and their implementing partners, cluster/sector coordinators and members and relevant government counterparts)?

Yes  No

Yes, only to CERF recipient agencies who are also the cluster co-coordinators

# 1. STRATEGIC PRIORITIZATION

## Statement by the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator:

The CERF funding strategically enhanced the humanitarian response by enabling integrated, multi-sectoral interventions that maximized impact across various sectors. The CERF-funded response strategically prioritized the most urgent, life-saving needs of affected populations through a multi-sectoral approach, ensuring timely assistance across key sectors. The rapid allocation enabled critical interventions in WASH, health, nutrition, food security, and protection, addressing immediate humanitarian gaps and reducing vulnerabilities.

CERF allocation significantly enhanced collective response capacities, ensuring flexibility to adapt interventions to evolving needs. It fostered inter-agency collaboration, leveraged additional funding, and strengthened local systems for long-term resilience. By addressing critical humanitarian needs efficiently, the CERF-funded response demonstrated exceptional impact, saving lives and reinforcing community stability.

## CERF's Added Value:

**Nutrition & WASH:** CERF support improved child nutrition by enabling the screening of 169,948 children for acute malnutrition, exceeding targets by 35%. A total of 6,711 children received treatment, including 1,276 for SAM and 5,435 for MAM, with a 77.4% recovery rate for SAM. Strengthened outreach and volunteer training were key to this success. In WASH, CERF funding rehabilitated 138 boreholes, distributed hygiene kits to 19,200 households, and provided WASH supplies to 72 healthcare facilities – benefiting over 112,000 people. The impact reducing waterborne disease risks.

**Protection:** CERF funding established or revived 16 protection referral mechanisms, ensuring 110,277 vulnerable individuals accessed services. It provided case management and psychosocial support for 658 GBV survivors, safe spaces for 3,033 women and girls, and direct support for 6,518 children. Cash assistance for 2,547 refugees and mobile phones for 1,178 households improved access to services.

**Food security - Food Assistance & Agriculture:** CERF enabled food assistance for 189,196 drought-affected people and improved coordination of food transports, benefiting over one million. It restored food production for 25,754 people and trained 144 extension workers in climate-smart agriculture, strengthening resilience for farming communities.

The combined outcomes of CERF funding strengthened the overall humanitarian response by fostering strong coordination, timely delivery of services, and long-term resilience. This integrated approach, alongside adaptive and flexible programming, ensured that immediate life-saving needs were met while also building systems for future crises.

## Did CERF funds lead to a fast delivery of assistance to people in need?

Yes

Partially

No

Yes, CERF funds enabled a rapid and impactful delivery of lifesaving multi sectoral assistance including nutrition through proactive community and facility-based case identification, timely referrals, and effective management and sustained supply of treatment commodities.

## Did CERF funds help respond to time-critical needs?

Yes

Partially

No

Yes, CERF funding addressed time-critical needs by swiftly restoring access to services such as safe water for instance, through the rehabilitation of 138 boreholes and enhancing infection prevention through distributing WASH kits with hygiene messages to 19,200 households, preventing waterborne diseases in drought-stricken districts

## Did CERF improve coordination amongst the humanitarian community?

Yes

Partially

No

Yes, CERF funding played a pivotal role in enhancing coordination among the humanitarian community by fostering close collaboration between UNICEF, FAO, UNHCR, and WFP. This collaboration ensured alignment of field interventions and

program complementarity in the drought response. With CERF support, technical and logistical assistance was provided to the government, reinforcing government-led, UN-supported coordination efforts. Key stakeholders, including UN agencies, US CDC, USAID, Save the Children, Plan International, World Vision, Zambia Red Cross, CARE International, and WaterAid, actively participated in cluster coordination. This collective effort streamlined resource allocation, strengthened government leadership, and ensured targeted support to the most drought-affected regions.

**Did CERF funds help improve resource mobilization from other sources?**

Yes

Partially

No

CERF funds played a catalytic role in improving resource mobilization from other sources. In the WASH sector, EU's 4-year Nexus Program for Energy and Water in Zambia builds on the experience of the CERF response. With a budget of 20 million EUR, this program is focused on disaster risk reduction and climate resilient WASH services in the same areas covered by the CERF response, complementing CERF's emergency-focused initiatives. This synergy between CERF and long-term development funding from the European Union ensured a more holistic approach to addressing both immediate and long-term needs.

**Considerations of the ERC's Underfunded Priority Areas<sup>1</sup>:**

The CERF allocation addressed critical humanitarian priorities by supporting women and girls, persons with disabilities, and broader protection needs. Women and girls were prioritized through gender-sensitive programming, with 58% of FAO's 5,662 supported households being female-led. Training and capacity-building activities fostered women's empowerment in agriculture and food security. WFP and UNFPA provided mobile sexual and reproductive health clinics at distribution sites, offering family planning services and raising awareness on gender-based violence. UNHCR facilitated GBV survivor referrals and engaged community volunteers to ensure the meaningful participation of women and girls in decision-making structures.

A key component of the intervention was the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), which aimed to uphold participants' dignity and safety. All implementing partners signed a commitment to the UN Code of Conduct on PSEA, and orientations on PSEA policies were conducted. Risk assessments were undertaken to identify and mitigate SEA risks, while health workers and community-based volunteers received training on PSEA principles, reporting mechanisms, and accountability frameworks. Communities were sensitized to SEA risks, and clear reporting pathways were established, including child helplines (116) and lifeline numbers (933). Frontline workers were trained before deployment to ensure readiness to prevent and address SEA incidents. Help desks at food distribution centers further supported reporting processes, and no SEA incidents were reported during the project.

The response also focused on disability inclusion. In response to concerns that mental, intellectual or sensory impairments can remain "hidden" and may be overlooked by drought response and GBV prevention programmes, UNHCR and partners designed all drought response and protection activities to be as inclusive as possible. WFP collaborated with organizations for persons with disabilities to ensure inclusive food security training.

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<sup>1</sup> In January 2019, the Emergency Relief Coordinator identified four priority areas as often underfunded and lacking appropriate consideration and visibility when funding is allocated to humanitarian action. The ERC therefore recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and HCTs/UNCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. These areas are: (1) support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, reproductive health and empowerment; (2) programmes targeting disabled people; (3) education in protracted crises; and (4) other aspects of protection. While CERF remains needs based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas. Please see the questions and answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

Protection was mainstreamed across interventions, ensuring vulnerable groups had safe and equitable access to humanitarian assistance. The most urgent funding needs were for GBV prevention and disability-inclusive programming, which remained underfunded due to limited resources and government capacity. CERF played a crucial role in integrating gender and disability considerations into the humanitarian response, ensuring that marginalized groups received life-saving support and strengthening inclusive humanitarian action in Zambia's drought response.

**Table 1: Allocation Overview (US\$)**

<b>Total amount required for the humanitarian response</b>	<b>250,000,000</b>
CERF	5,502,556
Country-Based Pooled Fund (if applicable)	0
Other (bilateral/multilateral)	59,141,958
<b>Total funding received for the humanitarian response (by source above)</b>	<b>64,644,514</b>

**Table 2: CERF Emergency Funding by Project and Sector/Cluster (US\$)**

Agency	Project Code	Sector/Cluster	Amount
FAO	24-RR-FAO-013	Food Security - Agriculture	855,000
UNHCR	24-RR-HCR-010	Protection	445,000
UNICEF	24-RR-CEF-025	Nutrition	954,001
UNICEF	24-RR-CEF-025	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	846,000
WFP	24-RR-WFP-021	Food Security - Food Assistance	2,402,555
<b>Total</b>			<b>5,502,556</b>

**Table 3: Breakdown of CERF Funds by Type of Implementation Modality (US\$)**

<b>Total funds implemented directly by UN agencies including procurement of relief goods</b>	<b>4,753,915</b>
Funds sub-granted to government partners*	16,174
Funds sub-granted to international NGO partners*	569,104
Funds sub-granted to national NGO partners*	163,363
Funds sub-granted to Red Cross/Red Crescent partners*	0
<b>Total funds transferred to implementing partners (IP)*</b>	<b>748,641</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,502,556</b>

\* Figures reported in table 3 are based on the project reports (part II, sections 1) and should be consistent with the sub-grants overview in the annex.

## 2. OPERATIONAL PRIORITIZATION:

### Overview of the Humanitarian Situation:

The 2023/2024 season was among the driest rainfall seasons in Zambia in the last 40 years. El Nino induced drought led to significant crop losses and livestock stresses. Assessments concluded that 6.6 million people needed immediate humanitarian assistance, 2.04 million of whom were severely food insecure at IPC levels 3 and 4 during October 2023 - March 2024. The failing cropping season and rising food inflation exacerbated the situation of food insecurity for the vulnerable, reducing access to food and increasing the risk of malnutrition. Zambia already has one of the highest rates of malnutrition and stunting in sub-Saharan Africa, with a staggering 35% of children under five years old stunted, and 4% acutely malnourished or wasted. Drying water sources and decreased ground water availability also severely impacted access to safe water for livestock and people, increasing the risk of water-borne and vector borne diseases, as well as the risk for protection violations and sexual exploitation for vulnerable women and children due to increased time and distances for fetching water. Most impacted districts were also identified as hotspots for negative coping mechanisms and raising concerns over likely increase in adoption of extreme mechanisms.

### Operational Use of the CERF Allocation and Results:

CERF funding reached a total of 653,516 people, providing critical support across multiple sectors in response to the drought emergency.

In WASH, CERF facilitated the rehabilitation of 138 boreholes, ensuring access to clean water for over 112,500 people. Hygiene kits were distributed to 19,200 households, and essential WASH supplies were provided to 72 healthcare facilities, reducing the risk of waterborne diseases. Additionally, 2.2 million people were indirectly reached through hygiene promotion and RCCE activities via radio programs, reinforcing safe water storage and handwashing practices.

In Nutrition, CERF funding enabled screening for 169,948 children, identifying and treating 6,711 cases of malnutrition, with a 77.4% recovery rate. In total, 215,789 individuals benefited from nutrition interventions, exceeding targets and improving overall health outcomes.

In Food Security, emergency cash-based transfers reached over 200,000 vulnerable individuals, enhancing household food security. Agricultural interventions restored food production for 25,754 people, equipping farmers with climate-resilient techniques and strengthening local food systems.

In Protection, CERF strengthened community-based mechanisms, improving referral pathways and SGBV response services. Support was provided to vulnerable populations, including GBV survivors and at-risk children, ensuring access to critical services and safe spaces.

By delivering life-saving assistance and reinforcing resilience, CERF funding ensured timely and effective humanitarian response in the most drought-affected areas.

### People Directly Reached:

A total of 653,516 people were reached through various interventions. In total, 189,196 individuals received food assistance via cash-based transfers, including 60,092 women, 58,966 men, and 70,138 children. To avoid double counting, WFP reported households reached based on actual support provided in each district. While the intervention pooled from multiple contributions, expenditure reports covered only the respective number of feeding days per donor. In the CERF report, WFP accounted for beneficiaries based on CERF funding, which covered 36 of the 90 feeding days, ensuring accurate reporting.

Food production was restored for 25,754 people, improving nutrition and strengthening climate resilience. The registration and selection of beneficiaries under the CERF grant were conducted with the Ministry of Agriculture, following national criteria under the Agriculture Food Security and Livestock Cluster. Community sensitization and stakeholder engagement identified eligible households. To prevent double counting, beneficiary records were cross-checked with Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) using NRC and mobile numbers. Validated lists were uploaded into the Food Security Management Information System (FSMS), a web-based database managed by FAO Zambia, enabling real-time monitoring and verification during the electronic voucher-based input redemption process

The nutrition sector screened 169,948 children aged 6–59 months for acute malnutrition, exceeding the target by 35%. Additionally, 45,841 people attended awareness sessions on Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN). In WASH, 96,000 people across 19,200 households received hygiene promotion messaging and household WASH kits. Borehole rehabilitation efforts expanded safe water access to 112,500 people, surpassing the target of 96,000. All the direct reach figures were estimated using programmatic monitoring tools, beneficiary registration records, and facility-level data, ensuring that individuals receiving multiple services were counted only once.

Protection services, including community awareness and grievance mechanisms, reached a total of 110,277 people. 658 individuals were reached through GBV case management and psychosocial support. Safe spaces and protection services were accessed by 3,033 women and girls. Child protection support reached 6,518 children through community structures, while 6,065 children accessed protection activities in child-friendly spaces.

### **People Indirectly Reached 200 words:**

**Agriculture:** An estimated 75,000 people indirectly benefited from farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange and resilience-focused information campaigns. These efforts strengthened farmers' ability to adapt to climate shocks and improve productivity. Indirect beneficiaries were reached through the Lead Farmer and Farmer Follower approach, which promotes knowledge sharing and skills transfer. FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture conducted Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions for extension officers, who then trained Lead Farmers. Each Lead Farmer trains 15–20 Farmer Followers, who further disseminate knowledge within their communities, enhancing the adoption of sustainable and climate-smart farming practices.

**Protection:** 146,292 individuals, including 52,040 forcibly displaced persons and 94,252 Zambians living in host communities, are estimated to have indirectly reached. The forcibly displaced numbers are based on 47,040 forcibly displaced persons in Mayukwayukwa and Meheba settlements who benefited from community-led protection networks and strengthened referral pathways, along with 5,000 individuals in Lusaka reached through Lifeline Childline demand creation. The Zambian numbers are derived from 11,800 living in Meheba Settlement and nearby wards, 18,023 in Kapili and Mushwala wards, and 64,429 in the districts of Sikongo, Shangombo, Sioma, and Senanga.

**Nutrition:** Approximately 3 million people were indirectly reached through national and community radio programs promoting nutrition awareness. Further engagement included 10,200 posters distributed to 636 health facilities, along with mobilization of 1,923 traditional and religious leaders and 7,694 male champions, increasing male participation in nutrition efforts and strengthening community involvement.

**WASH:** Over 2.2 million people benefited from hygiene awareness campaigns broadcast on five community radio stations, addressing handwashing, safe water storage, and dispelling misconceptions about hygiene practices.

**Food Assistance:** The project's impact extended beyond the 189,196 directly reached people. Many shared resources, financial support, and knowledge with extended family and community members, fostering economic and social improvements.



Additionally, the project's influence extended to broader community members, who gained from the enhanced economic and social activities initiated by direct beneficiaries.

**Table 4: Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding by Sector/Cluster\***

Sector/Cluster	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Food Security - Agriculture	10,287	4,409	4,413	1,891	21,000	6,814	5,238	7,497	6,205	<b>25,754</b>
Food Security - Food Assistance	44,700	43,466	51,222	49,808	189,196	60,092	58,966	35,353	34,785	<b>189,196</b>
Nutrition	45,458	0	65,474	60,437	171,369	45,841	0	88,373	81,575	<b>215,789</b>
Protection	25,745	40,270	18,390	18,335	102,740	38,778	32,180	23,560	15,759	<b>110,277</b>
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	19,929	19,071	29,070	27,930	96,000	23,354	22,349	34,066	32,731	<b>112,500</b>

\* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

**Table 5: Total Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding by Category\***

Category	Planned	Reached
Refugees	50,440	42,907
Returnees	0	0
Internally displaced people	0	0
Host communities	35,000	67,370
Other affected people	494,865	<b>543,239</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>580,305</b>	<b>653,516</b>

**Table 6: Total Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding\***

Sex & Age	Table 6: Total Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding*		Number of people with disabilities (PwD) out of the total	
	Planned	Reached	Planned	Reached
Women	146,119	174,879	15,501	8,934
Men	107,216	118,733	9,185	4,991
Girls	168,569	188,849	12,055	11,685
Boys	158,401	171,055	11,283	10,919
<b>Total</b>	<b>580,305</b>	<b>653,516</b>	<b>48,024</b>	<b>36,529</b>

## PART II – PROJECT OVERVIEW

### 3. PROJECT REPORTS

#### 3.1 Project Report 24-RR-FAO-013

1. Project Information			
Agency:	FAO	Country:	Zambia
Sector/cluster:	Food Security - Agriculture	CERF project code:	24-RR-FAO-013
Project title:	El Nino drought mitigation Project (EDMP)		
Start date:	01/05/2024	End date:	30/11/2024
Project revisions:	No-cost extension <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Funding	Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 89,000,000
	Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 1,500,000
	Amount received from CERF:		US\$ 855,000
	Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:		US\$ 0
	Government Partners		US\$ 0
	International NGOs		US\$ 0
	National NGOs		US\$ 0
Red Cross/Crescent Organisation		US\$ 0	

### 2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

With the generous support of the CERF grant, FAO set out to restore production capacity and support the early recovery of 3,500 El Niño-induced drought-affected households by providing essential agricultural input packs. Each pack, initially budgeted at \$136 with a total allocation of \$595,000, included 5 kg of early-maturing maize seed, 2 kg each of mixed beans and cowpeas, 50 kg each of basal and top-dressing fertilizer, and 50 g of vegetable seeds. This intervention was expected to benefit 21,000 individuals, enabling them to resume food production and secure their livelihoods through the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) modality.

Through strategic price negotiations, FAO successfully reduced the unit cost per pack to \$101, allowing the project to exceed its original target and support 5,171 vulnerable households (2,172 males [42%] and 2,999 females [58%]) across four severely drought-affected districts. A total of \$519,754 worth of agricultural inputs was provided, ensuring that each household redeemed their input pack via an electronic voucher system at designated agro-dealer outlets. The redemption process, conducted between October and November 2024, was briefly extended due to unforeseen delays in beneficiary verification caused by network challenges in remote areas.

In total, the intervention enhanced food security for 25,754 individuals, including 6,814 women, 5,238 men, 7,497 girls, 6,205 boys, 2,844 persons with disabilities, 554 people living with HIV, and 317 terminally ill individuals.

Recognizing that long-term resilience requires more than input distribution, FAO prioritized capacity building for district and frontline extension staff. Between September and October 2024, 144 extension personnel (96 males, 48 females) received refresher training on:

- Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA)
- Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)
- Small-scale irrigation technologies

By integrating agricultural input distribution with targeted training efforts, FAO ensured that both farmers and extension workers were equipped with the knowledge and tools to improve productivity, enhance soil and water management, and build climate resilience.

This intervention went beyond emergency relief, laying a strong foundation for sustained recovery and long-term adaptation in the face of climate-induced challenges.

### 3. Changes and Amendments

The latest IPC report indicates that 5.7 million people in Zambia require immediate assistance until March 2025 due to the El Niño-induced drought. However, the Government's appeal and the UN and partners' Flash Appeal have received limited contributions, leaving the overall humanitarian response severely underfunded. Due to low funding, the CERF grant was both timely and instrumental in providing life-saving agricultural support to vulnerable households.

Agricultural inputs were distributed via FAO's Food Security Management Information System (FSMS), using electronic vouchers for efficient and transparent redemption through Voucher Redeeming Suppliers (VRS). However, several challenges affected implementation:

- Limited availability of agricultural inputs, especially legumes, due to drought-induced disruptions in local seed production.
- Hard-to-reach areas with poor mobile network coverage, making e-voucher redemption difficult in some locations.
- Delays in beneficiary validation due to extended verification processes, necessitating a one-month No-Cost Extension (30 October – 30 November 2024).

Despite these delays, the project not only met but exceeded planned targets. The CERF grant was implemented using a programmatic approach, alongside two other initiatives that utilized e-vouchers. This approach enabled the project to reach a greater number of beneficiaries in other priority locations for the El Niño response. The one-month extension provided a necessary buffer to finalize voucher redemption, complete reconciliation with input suppliers, and ensure all project activities were concluded to the highest standard.

#### 4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding\*

Sector/cluster	Food Security - Agriculture									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Returnees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Internally displaced people	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Host communities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other affected people	10,287	4,409	4,413	1,891	21,000	6,814	5,238	7,497	6,205	25,754
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,287</b>	<b>4,409</b>	<b>4,413</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>6,814</b>	<b>5,238</b>	<b>7,497</b>	<b>6,205</b>	<b>25,754</b>
<b>People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total</b>										
	1,029	440	442	189	2,100	681	524	750	620	2,575

\* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

## 5. People Indirectly Targeted by the Project

The project indirectly reached an estimated 75,000 people through farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange, project communication, and information products on resilience to climate and other shocks, disseminated via national television, local radio stations, print media, and social media.

## 6. CERF Results Framework

<b>Project objective</b>	To save lives and livelihoods of vulnerable farming households affected by drought through restoration of their agricultural production capacity for food security				
<b>Output 1</b>	Access to production restoration input packs for winter and off-season production by vulnerable households ensured				
<b>Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage?</b>				Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sector/cluster</b>	Food Security - Agriculture				
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Source of verification</b>	
Indicator 1.1	Number of households receiving agricultural inputs through electronic vouchers or standard procurement	3,500	5,171	Beneficiary database housed within FAO's Food Security Management Information System (FSMS)	
Indicator 1.2	Average amount of USD redeemed by each beneficiary household (80%)	136	101	FSMIS monitoring report	
Indicator 1.3	Cash.4a Number of people receiving unconditional vouchers (3,500 households)	21,000	25,754	Beneficiary Register	
Indicator 1.4	Cash.4b Total value of unconditional vouchers distributed in USD	595,000	519,754	Financial report	
<b>Explanation of output and indicators variance:</b>		<p>Indicator 1.1: Exceeded the target by approximately 48% due to input price adjustments and alignment with other emergency response interventions.</p> <p>Indicator 1.2: Following price negotiations with input suppliers, the unit cost per pack was reduced to \$101 from the planned cost of \$136 per input pack.</p> <p>Indicator 1.3: The project exceeded its initial target of 21,000 people, reaching a total of 25,754 individuals. This achievement was made possible through the re-alignment of the input pack with other FAO-supported drought emergency response interventions.</p> <p>Indicator 1.4: Despite reaching over 48% of the target beneficiaries, the total value of distributed inputs amounted to \$519,754, compared to the initial allocation of \$595,000. The variance was primarily due to partial redemption by some beneficiaries, largely attributed to the unavailability of certain seeds, particularly legumes. The overall seed shortage in the market was a consequence of the severe drought experienced during the 2023/2024 agricultural season, which resulted in total crop failure.</p>			
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Implemented by</b>			

Activity 1.1	Beneficiary site selection	FAO, Ministry of Agriculture, District and Community Leaders
Activity 1.2	Key stakeholder engagement meetings to create project awareness (Agro-dealers, service providers, Input suppliers, government officials, UN agencies, NGOs, local and traditional leadership)	FAO, Ministry of Agriculture, DMMU
Activity 1.3	Food Security Management Information System (FSMS) set-up for project implementation and monitoring	FAO -utilised the in-house FSMS
Activity 1.4	Beneficiary selection and sensitization meetings including on awareness on GBV and PSEA for men, women, boys and girls during activity implementation and monitoring	FAO, MoA, District and Camp Extension Officers, Local Community Leaders and Camp Agricultural Committees (CACs)
Activity 1.5	Beneficiary registration and geo-referenced mapping	FAO, MoA
Activity 1.6	Awareness/re-training of beneficiaries on resilience to climate and other shocks	FAO, MoA
Activity 1.7	Selection and contracting of agro-dealers and suppliers	FAO
Activity 1.8	Distribution of agricultural inputs (through electronic vouchers or standard procurement)	VRS, Beneficiaries, Agro-dealers,
Activity 1.9	Field monitoring (during and post-distribution), and reporting of the agricultural input distribution by beneficiaries	FAO, MoA- District and Camp Extension Officers

## 7. Effective Programming

CERF expects partners to integrate and give due consideration to cross-cutting issues such as Accountability to Affected People (AAP), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), People with disabilities (PwD), Centrality of Protection as well as Gender and Age. In addition, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) has identified four underfunded priority areas<sup>2</sup> often lacking appropriate consideration and visibility: women and girls, people with disabilities, education and protection. **The following sections demonstrate how cross-cutting issues and the ERC's four underfunded priority areas have been addressed through project activities and should highlight the achieved impact wherever possible.**

### a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)<sup>3</sup>:

During the identification and selection of beneficiaries, priority was given to the most vulnerable households, including those with members with disabilities. Measures were implemented to ensure accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities (PwD) in all project activities. Special attention was given to the unique risks faced by women and girls with disabilities, with efforts to enhance their protection and safety.

<sup>2</sup> These areas include: support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and empowerment; programmes targeting people with disabilities; education in protracted crises; and other aspects of protection. The ERC recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and UNCTs/HCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. While CERF remains needs-based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas. Please see the Questions and Answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the [IASC AAP commitments](#).



To support inclusion, distribution points for inputs and services were strategically located to accommodate individuals with different abilities. In some cases, transport arrangements were made at the camp level to facilitate beneficiaries' movement, ensuring safe access to distribution points while preventing harassment and exploitation of disadvantaged groups. Additionally, the project collaborated with camp extension officers and community agricultural committees to assist individuals facing challenges.

This inclusive approach is reflected in the diversity of people reached 25,754 people, including: 6,814 women, 5,238 men, 7,497 girls, 6,205 boys, 2,844 persons with disabilities, 554 people living with HIV, 317 terminally ill individuals

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#### **b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:**

The project also utilized the Ministry of Agriculture's feedback and complaint mechanisms, promoting accessibility through local community structure using the Camp Agricultural Committee (CAC). Beneficiaries were informed about FAO's grievance policy and encouraged to voice concerns. Multiple reporting channels were established to ensure inclusivity, with feedback on seed availability gathered through extension officers and community agriculture committee leaders. Confidentiality was prioritized, ensuring that all grievances would be addressed promptly and effectively.

Farmers faced several challenges during the project, including network connectivity issues in remote areas, which hindered their ability to redeem electronic vouchers. Additionally, inputs were not consistently available at the same time, and distances to agro-dealer shops further complicated the process. To address these concerns, FAO collaborated with agricultural input suppliers to ensure that all agro dealers were well-stocked and increased the number of redemption points.

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#### **c. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):**

FAO and partners implemented mechanisms to confidentially and effectively record and handle SEA-related complaints, leveraging the Ministry of Agriculture's feedback and complaint systems through accessible local community structures. Stakeholders were informed of these channels during the inception phase, training, and field activities. Awareness sessions included modules on PSEA, gender equality, and GBV. Complaints were handled with confidentiality, and follow-ups ensured timely resolution, reinforcing FAO's commitment to safeguarding affected populations. Deliberate efforts were made to raise awareness of PSEA, including available safe reporting and referral pathways. FAO was collaborating with the PSEA network to enhance awareness among partners and communities.

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#### **d. Focus on women, girls and sexual and gender minorities, including gender-based violence:**

The project prioritized vulnerable groups, including women, girls, and sexual and gender minorities, during the identification and selection phases. Of the 5,171 vulnerable households that benefitted from CERF interventions, 2,999 [58%] beneficiaries were women or female-headed households, reflecting a deliberate effort to empower women in agriculture and food security. The project reached a diverse group of beneficiaries including 25,754 people, including: 6,814 women, 5,238 men, 7,497 girls, 6,205 boys, 2,844 persons with disabilities, 554 people living with HIV, 317 terminally ill individuals, and 554 people living with HIV. Gender considerations were integrated throughout the project by involving both men and women in training and capacity-building activities, fostering collaboration and inclusivity. Specific measures were taken to raise awareness of GBV and promote safe spaces for reporting and addressing such issues. By empowering women with knowledge and skills, the project contributes to reducing gender inequalities, protecting vulnerable groups, and enhancing their role in sustainable agriculture and community resilience.

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#### **e. People with disabilities (PwD):**

During the identification and selection of beneficiaries, priority was given to the most vulnerable households, including those with members with disabilities and individuals excluded from other social protection programs like FISP and social cash transfers. Measures were implemented to ensure accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities (PwD) in all project activities, with a specific focus on the unique risks faced by women and girls with disabilities, promoting their protection and safety.

Distribution points for inputs and services were strategically located to accommodate individuals with varying abilities. Transport arrangements were made at the camp level to facilitate safe access to distribution points, minimizing the risk of harassment and exploitation. The project collaborated with camp extension officers and community agricultural committees to assist individuals facing challenges.

This inclusive approach resulted in reaching a diverse group of beneficiaries, including 6,814 women, 5,238 men, 7,947 girls, 6,205 boys, 2,844 persons with disabilities, and 554 people living with HIV.

#### f. Protection:

Protection was mainstreamed by ensuring that the specific needs of at-risk groups, such as women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, were addressed during project implementation. To mitigate risks and reduce travel burdens, Voucher Redeeming Suppliers (VRS) were encouraged to position agro dealers at central and accessible locations, minimizing travel distances to input distribution points. Additionally, deliberate efforts were made to prioritize vulnerable households during the beneficiary selection process. The project also integrated awareness on protection principles, including safeguarding measures, into training and field activities, ensuring that all stakeholders understood their roles in creating a safe and inclusive environment. These measures contributed to enhancing the safety, accessibility, and well-being of all affected persons, particularly those most at risk.

#### g. Education:

Education was integrated into the project design through capacity-building and stakeholder engagement to ensure effective implementation. Additionally, community awareness initiatives led by the community agriculture committees and agriculture camp structures educated farmers on disaster preparedness, the importance of accurate reporting, and the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices to mitigate future risks. These efforts aimed to strengthen institutional and community-level knowledge, ensuring long-term sustainability and resilience in the agriculture sector.

### 8. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

#### Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?

Planned	Achieved	Total number of people receiving cash assistance:
Yes, CVA is a component of the CERF project	Yes, CVA is a component of the CERF project	25,754

If **no**, please describe why CVA was not considered. Where feasible, CVA should be considered as a default response option, and multi-purpose cash (MPC) should be utilised wherever possible.

If **yes**, briefly note how CVA is being used, highlighting the use of MPC, and if any linkages to existing social protection systems have been explored.

The distribution of inputs to beneficiaries was facilitated through electronic vouchers, leveraging FAO's existing Food Security and Management Information System (FSMS). This approach ensured efficient access to high-quality agricultural inputs through a network of selected agro dealers operating within the project's target areas.

**Parameters of the used CVA modality:**

Specified CVA activity	Number of people receiving CVA	Value of cash (US\$)	Sector/cluster	Restriction
Activity 1.8 Maize	5,380	US\$ 67,121	Food Security - Agriculture	Restricted
Activity 1.8 Common beans	5,257	US\$ 24,308	Food Security - Agriculture	Restricted
Activity 1.8 Cowpeas	4,422	US\$ 12,634	Food Security - Agriculture	Restricted
Activity 1.8 D Compound	5,399	US\$ 211,405	Food Security - Agriculture	Restricted
Activity 1.8 Urea	5,395	US\$ 204,285.51	Food Security - Agriculture	Restricted

**9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities**

Title	Weblink
Training of Trainers in Climate-Smart Agriculture Practices under the CERF Grant in Kafue District.	<a href="https://x.com/FAOZambia/status/1842197832079458738?t=0frQmxV5CE3n1pukYxE5wg&amp;s=08">https://x.com/FAOZambia/status/1842197832079458738?t=0frQmxV5CE3n1pukYxE5wg&amp;s=08</a>

### 3.2 Project Report 24-RR-HCR-010

#### 1. Project Information

<b>Agency:</b>	UNHCR	<b>Country:</b>	Zambia
<b>Sector/cluster:</b>	Protection	<b>CERF project code:</b>	24-RR-HCR-010
<b>Project title:</b>	Rapid Response Protection Initiative for the Most Vulnerable Communities Affected by Zambia's Severe Drought		
<b>Start date:</b>	20/05/2024	<b>End date:</b>	19/11/2024
<b>Project revisions:</b>	No-cost extension <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Funding</b>	<b>Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:</b>	<b>US\$ 2,445,526</b>
	<b>Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:</b>	<b>US\$ 1,445,000</b>
	<b>Amount received from CERF:</b>	<b>US\$ 445,000</b>
	<b>Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:</b>	<b>US\$ 140,000</b>
	Government Partners	US\$ 0
	International NGOs	US\$ 90,000
National NGOs	US\$ 50,000	
Red Cross/Crescent Organisation	US\$ 0	

#### 2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

UNHCR and partners supported the Government of the Republic of Zambia's national drought emergency response through co-leadership of the Protection Sector with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS), and by mainstreaming protection across sector coordination mechanisms. In UNHCR's existing area of operations and beyond (including in non-refugee-hosting districts where critical protection gaps were identified at community level), the CERF-RR project set out to establish, revive, strengthen and/or further develop and mainstream new and existing community-led protection mechanisms.

The objective was to enable targeted communities to take charge of community outreach to identify the most vulnerable and at-risk and build community resilience to better withstand and recover from the shock of the drought. This was done through active identification of the worst affected families, and facilitation of case referral to appropriate local authorities and service providers. The project capitalized on existing structures under MCDSS, and its incentivised community-based outreach workers. Families in need of urgent support were fast-tracked to receive assistance and protection problems were identified by community-led structures for appropriate action. Community structures were strengthened and connected to community-based referral pathways, including through church leaders, women's groups, refugee and traditional leaders. By the end of the project, 16 protection referral mechanisms were established/revived in six districts, and the total number of individuals directly reached by community-based outreach activities was 110,276. The project made a significant impact by confirming the roles and responsibilities of volunteer community networks and strengthening their decision-making capacity as core response teams that are central to protection referral pathways to critical Government services. To strengthen gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, 658 individuals at risk of or survivors of GBV were supported through case management and psychosocial support. A total of 3,033 women and girls accessed safe spaces and protection services. 6,518 children identified by community structures received direct child protection support, and 6,065 children accessed protection-related activities and/or services through child friendly spaces.

Forcibly displaced populations were not included in the Government of Zambia's national social protection cash assistance programmes for the drought response. The CERF-RR project used the community-led protection networks to identify the most vulnerable refugee and former refugee families. The cash assistance was intended for critical food and non-food households needs. UNHCR conducted a comprehensive protection needs assessment using a scorecard intended for the drought emergency to select families in urgent need of support. A total of 2,547 individuals received cash assistance (against a target of 2,700), and a total of 1,178 basic mobile phones (beyond the target of 900 mobile phones based on actual needs) were distributed to vulnerable households who did not have phones to enable them to receive the cash distribution through mobile money. The 2,700 target for cash beneficiaries was not met because UNHCR had to harmonize the monthly cash transfer value with the other humanitarian actors responding to the national drought emergency. The monthly amount was increased from 375 kwacha to 600 kwacha per month, thus requiring the target to be reduced. While the community-based activities targeted both refugee and host communities in Meheba settlement, Kalumbila District (North-Western Province); Mayukwayukwa settlement, Kaoma District as well as Senanga; Shangombo; Sikongo; and Sioma which are districts that do not host refugees (Western Province), the cash distribution did not target nationals as they were served under the national system. It should be noted that when UNHCR in Zambia received a budget increase from multilateral funds, it was used to also target host communities that were left out of the government response. Advocacy for refugee inclusion in the national social protection system has led to inputs from UNHCR into the new National Social Protection Policy under development and discussion with MCDSS and development partners on how refugees could be included in the system.

### **3. Changes and Amendments**

During the inception of the CERF-RR, UNHCR briefed the Protection Sector on its implementation plan. The Protection Sector partners advocated that UNHCR re-directed resources from the CERF-RR to Lifeline Childline Zambia (LLCZ), a national non-governmental organization that manages the national toll-free helplines for Child Protection (116) and Gender-based Violence (933). LLCZ's call center offers services in Zambian and refugee languages and provides psychosocial support through the helplines. UNHCR reached out to the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office to request the re-direction of some of the CERF-RR funds to LLCZ to increase and strengthen their capacity, which enabled the call center to respond to more than 52,000 drought-related calls. The inclusion of LLCZ as a partner into the project required a minor adjustment to indicator reporting, as explained under indicator 1.2., below).

Through the three months no cost extension provided by CERF, UNHCR was able to work through two new national non-governmental partners (ActionAid Zambia in Western Province and Brave Heart in North-Western Province) and provide capacity support to ensure the community-led structures that were set up to conduct protection monitoring outreach, assistance and referral will be sustained to help communities recover from the drought. This is enabling the local community leaders, child and youth care workers, GBV monitors, and community development workers who were equipped with essential emergency response skills, to continue to provide community case management, referral protection cases, and strengthen the Government social welfare response.

#### 4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding\*

Sector/cluster	Protection									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	12,500	21,300	8,280	8,360	<b>50,440</b>	16,404	14,353	7,494	4,656	<b>42,907</b>
Returnees	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Internally displaced people	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Host communities	8,645	14,770	5,810	5,775	<b>35,000</b>	22,374	17,827	16,066	11,103	<b>67,370</b>
Other affected people	4,600	4,200	4,300	4,200	<b>17,300</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,745</b>	<b>40,270</b>	<b>18,390</b>	<b>18,335</b>	<b>102,740</b>	<b>38,778</b>	<b>32,180</b>	<b>23,560</b>	<b>15,759</b>	<b>110,277</b>
<b>People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total</b>										
	614	1,067	191	163	<b>2,035</b>	<b>1,864</b>	<b>1,545</b>	<b>1,119</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>5,325</b>

\* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

## 5. People Indirectly Targeted by the Project

Drought-affected communities living in proximity to forcibly displaced persons (i.e., asylum-seekers, refugees, and former refugees) and host communities living in hard-to-reach locations, indirectly benefited from project activities, through mass awareness-raising campaigns and community volunteer outreach actions on the prevention of GBV, sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and violence against children, as well as care for persons with specific needs. This led to informal and formal information-sharing and referral pathway strengthening. As many activities had strong elements of community participation and leadership, including remote rural and hard to reach locations in and around the refugee settlements and targeted their host communities in Senanga, Shangombo, Sikongo and Sioma. Other indirect beneficiaries included Government staff, local authorities and institutional structures (i.e. teachers, health workers, and social workers). The number of indirect beneficiaries reached was approximately 146,292 individuals (including approximately 52,000 forcibly displaced persons). UNHCR estimates that 50% of the national population are male while 57% of forcibly displaced people are male.

## 6. CERF Results Framework

<b>Project objective</b>	Working closely with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS), the Ministry responsible for social protection in Zambia and the government lead of the Protection Cluster in Zambia, UNHCR will support and strengthen coordination among protection partners to meet the needs of vulnerable populations through awareness-raising campaigns, community-based protection, active case identification, and referral for social services and case management. Community-led prevention and response efforts will focus on preventing and responding to gender-based violence, PSEA, child exploitation and abuse and other protection concern exacerbated by the drought while providing psychosocial support (PSS).			
<b>Output 1</b>	Physical and legal protection mechanisms, including psychosocial support systems, respond to the increasing protection needs of affected communities due to the drought situation.			
<b>Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Sector/cluster</b>	Protection			
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Source of verification</b>
Indicator 1.1	PP.1a Number of protection referral mechanisms and/or pathways established	33	36	Partner reports, performance verification and monitoring reports.
Indicator 1.2	PP.1b Number of people accessing protection referral mechanisms and/or pathways	1,600	31,487	Partner reports, Protection Cluster Monthly Tracker and information sheets.
Indicator 1.3	Cash.1a Number of people receiving multi-purpose cash	2,700	2,547	Cash distribution monitoring tracker, Cash disbursement report.
Indicator 1.4	Cash.1b Total value of multi-purpose cash distributed in USD	234,576	232,644	CBI expenditure tracker, distribution tracker.
Indicator 1.5	Number of people reached by community-based protection outreach activities	102,740	110,277	Partner reports, Protection Cluster Monthly Tracker and information sheets.
<b>Explanation of output and indicators variance:</b>	The project worked together with and capacitated the existing MCDSS structures and community-based structures (e.g., community facilitators and church leaders' committees). The onboarding of Lifeline Childline Zambia			



(LLCZ) and increased awareness-raising on the extension of the National Feedback Mechanisms into rural communities led to increased stakeholder engagement and consequently increase the demand for services. This created additional referral mechanisms, including community feedback mechanisms, and psychosocial support through the toll-free lines.

Indicator 1.2.: The project capitalized on the onboarding of LLCZ, which served as the main grievance partner for the Government's drought response. Cooperation with LLCZ grew in strategic importance because LLCZ is pivotal in the management of the Government Grievance mechanism at national and subnational levels. LLCZ call centre staff are trained psychosocial counsellors. The target for Indicator 1.2 (Number of people accessing protection referral mechanisms and/or pathways) was established prior to inclusion of LLCZ as a partner. Therefore, the target was not set to anticipate the total number of drought-related calls received from refugees and host communities during the reporting period.

Indicator 1.3.: The 2,700 target for cash recipient households was not met, as UNHCR had to align the monthly cash value with the other humanitarian actors participating in the drought response, from 375 kwacha per month to 600 kwacha per month. A new target of 2,556 was presented to the Resident Coordinator's Office; however, some of the targeted individuals reportedly relocated out of the settlement and could not be traced to disburse the cash assistance. This led to a slight decline in the number of actual individuals reached (2,547) and created a variance between the target and distribution.

Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 1.1	Strengthen and empower and/or establish community structures to raise-awareness, conduct active case finding, disseminate information, and conduct referral for basic support.	ActionAid; Lifeline-Childline Zambia
Activity 1.2	Train community-based structures on awareness-raising, active case finding (drought affected protection risks) and referral.	ActionAid
Activity 1.3	Identification and referral of individuals from the refugee and former refugee community with acute protection needs to receive financial literacy training and cash assistance to help provide for food and basic households needs.	UNHCR; ActionAid
Activity 1.4	Conduct post distribution monitoring on cash-assistance and financial literacy training to ensure quality delivery.	UNHCR; ActionAid

**Output 2** Prevention and response to higher risk of gender-based violence (GBV)

Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Sector/cluster	Protection			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 2.1	PS.2 Number of people receiving GBV psycho-social support and/or GBV case management	440	658	Partner report and Performance monitoring reports

Indicator 2.2	PS.1a Number of people accessing women- and girl-friendly safe spaces and/or centres	90	3,033	Partner report and performance monitoring report.
<b>Explanation of output and indicators variance:</b>		<p>Indicator 2.1: Awareness-raising about services via the toll-free lines contributed towards awareness of and access to the services.</p> <p>Indicator 2.2: Due to the prolonged drought situation, there was an increase in reporting GBV cases as well as an increase in awareness about the availability of GBV prevention and response services and mechanisms. The increased capacity (including the community lead structures) to conduct outreach and awareness-raising and contributed to a significant increase in demand creation. Spaces were created in health facilities, 'safe clubs' were established in schools, peace clubs, churches, and women's groups within communities held women's gatherings.</p>		
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Implemented by</b>		
Activity 2.1	Referral of GBV survivors to UNHCR and protection partners to ensure immediate access to basic necessities (food, shelter, clothing, cash/basic needs).	ActionAid		
Activity 2.2	GBV prevention campaigns conducted by trained community-based structures to identify and refer GBV survivors	ActionAid		

**Output 3** Prevention and response to higher risk of Child Protection

<b>Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Sector/cluster</b>	Protection			
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Source of verification</b>
Indicator 3.1	CP.3 Number of children receiving protection support	1,100	6,518	Partner report and partner performance report
Indicator 3.2	CP.4 Number of people accessing protection activities and/or services through child-friendly spaces	4,700	5,732	Partner report and partner performance report.
<b>Explanation of output and indicators variance:</b>		<p>Indicator 3.1 and 3.2.: The number of children receiving protection support and people accessing protection services and activities increased significantly following community workshops conducted by partners in collaboration with stakeholders (i.e., MCDSS, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Health) provided participants with an in-depth understanding of various GBV and child abuse/exploitation issues, including their root causes, consequences, and prevention strategies (i.e., mass sensitisation campaigns in schools on promoting positive behaviours). Two-way communication and feedback through complaints and referral mechanisms (including peace clubs, church leaders' committees, education referral mechanisms, social protection, welfare and community-trained facilitators and suggestion boxes that were put in place.</p>		
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Implemented by</b>		
Activity 3.1	Referral of affected children to line ministries, UN agencies and protection partners to ensure that immediate needs will be met.	ActionAid		

Activity 3.2	Child protection campaigns conducted by trained community-based structures to identify and refer affected children.	ActionAid
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## 7. Effective Programming

CERF expects partners to integrate and give due consideration to cross-cutting issues such as Accountability to Affected People (AAP), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), People with disabilities (PwD), Centrality of Protection as well as Gender and Age. In addition, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) has identified four underfunded priority areas<sup>4</sup> often lacking appropriate consideration and visibility: women and girls, people with disabilities, education and protection. **The following sections demonstrate how cross-cutting issues and the ERC’s four underfunded priority areas have been addressed through project activities and should highlight the achieved impact wherever possible.**

### a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)<sup>5</sup>:

UNHCR systematically includes affected people in the design stage of its interventions, as part of its Accountability to Affected People (AAP) policy, and in line with the Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) policy. UNHCR’s protection response in Zambia, including the CERF-RR project, was designed through direct and continuous engagement with the targeted populations. The project focused on providing a drought emergency protection response for the entire community (women and girls, men and boys of all age and diversity groups, as well as refugees, former refugees, persons at risk of statelessness and the Zambian communities). Forcibly displaced persons and host communities were consulted during the course of the project on how to improve service delivery, through sector working group meetings, joint review activities, and focus group discussions. Community-based monitoring was a key component of the cash assistance and mobile phone post distribution monitoring exercise. Feedback from these exercises helped UNHCR and partners to update beneficiary lists and understand community dynamics.

### b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:

The core project focus was the involvement of communities in establishing, reviving and further developing community-based referral mechanisms. The addition of LLCZ as a project partner substantially increased the availability of referral pathways for the targeted populations. As opportunities for remote face-to-face counselling in geographically distant communities remains very limited, LLCZ avails a countrywide (and anonymous) service that provides accurate information, assistance and referrals to relevant actors. LLCZ focused its counselling efforts on gender-based violence prevention and directing cases of abuse to the relevant government authorities, including the provision of psychosocial support to its callers. Through the distinct “Childline” number (116), child protection concerns are attended to in an expert and expedited manner. Complementing LLCZ services, UNHCR maintained its dedicated protection phone hotline and email address throughout the project implementation period.

### c. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):

<sup>4</sup> These areas include: support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and empowerment; programmes targeting people with disabilities; education in protracted crises; and other aspects of protection. The ERC recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and UNCTs/HCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. While CERF remains needs-based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas. Please see the Questions and Answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

<sup>5</sup> AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the [IASC AAP commitments](#).

LLCZ functions as the main grievance mechanism for the Zambia PSEA inter-agency network and is fully competent in handling PSEA-related complaints. LLCZ raised awareness around the call center and its functions, emphasizing the possibility to make complaints free of charge at any time of day. LLCZ refers cases to relevant actors for follow-up, while maintaining attention to anonymity and confidentiality. UNHCR trained the LLCZ call center staff on PSEA to ensure correct messaging to callers around refugee-specific matters and program delivery, including references to UNHCR grievance mechanisms. All UNHCR's partners funded through the CERF-RR allocation were assessed for their PSEA capacity as a prerequisite to signing partnership agreements with UNHCR. Complementing LLCZ services, UNHCR maintained its dedicated protection phone hotline and email address throughout the project implementation period.

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**d. Focus on women, girls and sexual and gender minorities, including gender-based violence:**

The GBV situation for refugees and host communities was analysed in late 2023 through an Age Gender Diversity Participatory Assessment conducted jointly by UNHCR and the Government (multisectoral). The documented challenges for women and girls (risk of physical violence when fetching grass, firewood and water, and when refusing sex) and the highlighting of the high rates of domestic violence, contributed to the project design and the designation of a specific project output on GBV prevention and response. The project focused on the referral of GBV survivors to ensure immediate access to assistance and basic necessities. Prevention campaigns were conducted across the targeted communities through trained community-based outreach volunteers. Activities were designed to ensure women, girls, men and boys participated equally and meaningfully in all decision-making, community management and leadership structures, and committees of forcibly displaced persons as well as with the host communities. UNHCR Gender/LGBTI+ focal points in the refugee settlements supported the implementation of these activities.

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**e. People with disabilities (PwD):**

UNHCR follows the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Persons living with disabilities (PwDs) face many forms of GBV, denial of opportunities and access to basic services. In response to concerns that mental, intellectual or sensory impairments can remain "hidden" and may be overlooked by drought response and GBV prevention programmes, UNHCR and partners designed all drought response and protection activities to be as inclusive as possible. Actions to address the specific GBV-related needs and capacities of PwDs were included in the response. The UNHCR protection needs assessment informed the identification of persons with specific needs. UNHCR conducted intentional follow up during cash Post Distribution Monitoring to ensure that PwDs were able to access the cash and items provided to them.

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**f. Protection:**

As co-lead of the Protection Sector, UNHCR coordinated protection-related information from both the CERF-RR project implementation and UNHCR's regular work with the objective of accomplishing a well-coordinated response by all of the protection partners operating in different locations, countrywide. A protection needs assessment was conducted to gain a clear understanding of the critical needs faced by communities living in the CERF-RR targeted locations in the context of the drought emergency. UNHCR and protection partners noted critical protection gaps, many of which were addressed under this project, while others require longer term programmes and responses through different resources. The protection needs assessment conducted during the project implementation period is informing project design in 2025 to enable the Government of the Republic of Zambia, UNHCR and partners to continue to develop a sustainable response to forced displacement. The protection needs assessment informed the social protection cash assistance programme, which is able to continue in 2025 through a project agreement with MCDSS where the most vulnerable refugees and members of the host community continue to receive cash assistance. The method of cash disbursement has since changed from UNHCR's direct implementation through mobile money services to the MCDSS system --- taking refugees one step closer to inclusion in the national social protection system.

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**g. Education:**

N/A

## 8. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

### Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?

Planned	Achieved	Total number of people receiving cash assistance:
Yes, CVA is a component of the CERF project	Yes, CVA is a component of the CERF project	2,547

If **no**, please describe why CVA was not considered. Where feasible, CVA should be considered as a default response option, and multi-purpose cash (MPC) should be utilised wherever possible.

If **yes**, briefly note how CVA is being used, highlighting the use of MPC, and if any linkages to existing social protection systems have been explored.

UNHCR Zambia disbursed cash assistance for basic needs through mobile money to 2,547 individuals. Responding to the drought that has affected people in most provinces in Zambia, this cash assistance project accommodated the most vulnerable within the population who were severely impacted by the drought (as assessed through UNHCR's Protection Needs Assessment) to support basic household needs and mitigate protection risks.

### Parameters of the used CVA modality:

Specified CVA activity (incl. activity # from results framework above)	Number of people receiving CVA	Value of cash (US\$)	Sector/cluster	Restriction
Output 1, indicator 1.3, activity 1.3	2,547	US\$ 232,644	Multi-Purpose Cash	Unrestricted

## 9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities

Title	Weblink
United Nations OCHA – OCHA Drought Video Zambia (27 December 2024, mission conducted on behalf of OCHA in coordination with UNHCR)	<a href="https://fb.watch/xi-gOG4dv0/">https://fb.watch/xi-gOG4dv0/</a>
Zambia Drought Protection Update (15 November 2024)	<a href="https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/112729">https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/112729</a>
Zambia Drought Protection Update (6 August 2024)	<a href="https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/110430">https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/110430</a>
UNHCR Zambia Drought Emergency Update (31 July 2024)	<a href="https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/111368">https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/111368</a>
UNHCR Zambia Drought Emergency Update (21 June 2024)	<a href="https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109527">https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109527</a>

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[1] These areas include: support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and empowerment; programmes targeting people with disabilities; education in protracted crises; and other aspects of protection. The ERC recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and UNCTs/HCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. While CERF remains needs-based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas. Please see the Questions and Answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

[2] AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the [IASC AAP commitments](#).

### 3.3 Project Report 24-RR-CEF-025

1. Project Information			
<b>Agency:</b>	UNICEF	<b>Country:</b>	Zambia
<b>Sector/cluster:</b>	Nutrition Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	<b>CERF project code:</b>	24-RR-CEF-025
<b>Project title:</b>	Cushioning Pregnant and Lactating Women and Young Children from the impact of drought through integrated WASH and Nutrition Interventions		
<b>Start date:</b>	22/04/2024	<b>End date:</b>	21/10/2024
<b>Project revisions:</b>	No-cost extension <input type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:</b>	<b>US\$ 28,667,346</b>	
	<b>Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:</b>	<b>US\$ 2,070,836</b>	
	<b>Amount received from CERF:</b>	<b>US\$ 1,800,001</b>	
	<b>Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:</b>	<b>US\$ 607,487</b>	
	Government Partners	US\$ 16,174	
	International NGOs	US\$ 567,950	
National NGOs	US\$ 23,363		
Red Cross/Crescent Organisation	US\$ 0		

### 2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

Through the CERF grant, UNICEF and its partners implemented effective nutrition interventions, screening 169,948 children aged 6–59 months for acute malnutrition, exceeding the target of 125,911 by 35%. A total of 6,711 children were managed for wasting, including 1,276 for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 5,435 for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), surpassing the target of 4,500. This success was driven by enhanced outreach, strengthened community volunteer capacity, and the distribution of MUAC tapes. The SAM recovery rate reached 77.4%, surpassing the 75% target, reflecting quality care from trained health workers and consistent therapeutic supply availability. High-energy protein supplements were provided to 8,258 children, reaching 80% of the target. Maternal, Adolescent, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition (MAIYCN) counseling reached 45,841 pregnant and breastfeeding women, exceeding the target. Additionally, 322 health workers and 2,112 community-based volunteers were trained in Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) and MAIYCN. UNICEF procured vital supplies, including 1,670 cartons of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), 15 cartons of F-75 and F-100 therapeutic milk, and 5 cartons of ReSoMal, to support treatment efforts across eight districts. These interventions significantly improved the management of malnutrition, including enhanced Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices.

Through the CERF grant, UNICEF and its partners have enhanced access to WASH services for 112,500 drought-affected individuals by rehabilitating 138 non-functional boreholes: 51 at healthcare facilities, 7 at schools, and 80 in communities. WASH kits with hygiene messages were distributed to 19,200 households, while WASH IP kits were provided to 72 healthcare facilities.

Additionally, discharge kits were supplied to 601 children receiving treatment for malnutrition. Hygiene promotion and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities were carried out by the national NGO RICAP in collaboration with Community-Based Volunteers. Around 2.2 million people in the targeted districts were indirectly reached through 5 community radio programs, which emphasized the importance of handwashing, safe water storage, and proper use of hygiene kits. Each WASH kit for the 19,200 targeted households contained one bottle of liquid chlorine, one bar of soap, a hygiene leaflet, and one ORS. Healthcare facilities received essential supplies, including black and yellow plastic bin liners (100/pack x 2), hand wash stations (1), hand washing liquid (450 ml x 5), 12 hand sanitizers (2 x 100 ml), swivel mop buckets with industrial mops (1), 100% cotton mutton cloth (4), 5-liter industrial detergent (7), 30-liter pedal bins (2), wheel bins (200-250L) (1), and hard brooms (3). Children with malnutrition received a 20-liter bucket, 250ml bottle of liquid chlorine, 500g multi-purpose soap, Risk Communication materials (posters), and one ORS. These efforts aimed to prevent drought-related diseases, such as cholera and acute watery diarrhea, at both the facility and household levels. In addition to CERF-supported activities, UNICEF used internal funding to complement the WASH interventions. The organization collaborated with private contractors, consulting firms, and provincial and district health and water offices for site selection, validation, and rehabilitation of boreholes.

### 3. Changes and Amendments

#### NUTRITION

Although most interventions exceeded targets, a notable issue was the delay in the rollout of Multiple Micronutrient Supplements (MMS) for pregnant women and Micronutrient Powders for children aged 6-23 months. At the time of purchase, there was a global shortage of MMMs resulting in delay of supply by the manufacturers. Despite placing orders in May 2024, the first shipment of MMS arrived in December 2024. This was because of global production constraints, compounded by an escalation in global demand, following updated WHO guidance. These delays impacted the timely provision of essential micronutrient supplementation to pregnant women and children 6-23 months.

#### WASH

Due to the severe impacts of the drought, it became evident that the original project scope needed to be adjusted to address the urgent needs of additional communities. UNICEF recognized the need to expand the project's coverage beyond the original 8 districts to include Chama, Lumezi, and Lusangazi, which were also heavily affected. CERF approval was sought and granted to extend the project, allowing the rehabilitation of 66 non-functional boreholes in these districts, benefiting an additional 16,500 people. This expansion was essential to ensure that the most vulnerable communities received access to safe water during the crisis, adapting the project to meet the evolving humanitarian needs.

There was a 67% increase in the number of boreholes rehabilitated than initially planned. This was made possible through leveraging existing borehole contracts that had already been negotiated with favourable rates. By using these pre-established contracts, UNICEF was able to avoid the additional costs that would have been incurred from issuing new contracts or conducting new procurement processes. This approach enhanced cost efficiency, allowing the project to stretch its budget further and rehabilitate more boreholes than originally targeted. UNICEF received CERF approval to expand the geographic coverage, extending the intervention to Chama, Lumezi, and Lusangazi districts. In these three districts, 66 non-functional boreholes were rehabilitated, benefiting an additional 16,500 people with improved access to safe water.

Due to operational challenges in procuring hand pumps and nutrition supplies, UNICEF sought and obtained approval for a two-month no-cost extension to ensure the successful completion of the project.



#### 4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding\*

Sector/cluster	Nutrition									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Returnees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Internally displaced people	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Host communities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other affected people	45,458	0	65,474	60,437	171,369	45,841	0	88,373	81,575	215,789
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,458</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>65,474</b>	<b>60,437</b>	<b>171,369</b>	<b>45,841</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>88,373</b>	<b>81,575</b>	<b>215,789</b>
<b>People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total</b>										
	4,955	0	2,881	2,659	10,495	3,530	0	6,281	6,281	16,092

Sector/cluster	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Returnees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Internally displaced people	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Host communities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other affected people	19,929	19,071	29,070	27,930	96,000	23,354	22,349	34,066	32,731	112,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,929</b>	<b>19,071</b>	<b>29,070</b>	<b>27,930</b>	<b>96,000</b>	<b>23,354</b>	<b>22,349</b>	<b>34,066</b>	<b>32,731</b>	<b>112,500</b>
<b>People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total</b>										

\* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

	3,986	2,897	2,907	2,793	<b>12,583</b>	<b>1,798</b>	<b>1,721</b>	<b>2,623</b>	<b>2,520</b>	<b>8,662</b>
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**Note:** The proportion of Persons Living with Disabilities (PLWD) in Zambia was calculated using the disability prevalence rate from the 2025 National Disability Survey, which identified that 7.7% of the population in Zambia has a disability. This percentage represents the share of the total population affected by various forms of disability. To ensure accuracy, these figures were verified using the Disability Information Management System (DIMS), which is managed by the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZPID). This system serves as a reliable repository for up-to-date and comprehensive data on PLWD, ensuring that calculations and conclusions drawn align with verified national statistics.

\* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

## 5. People Indirectly Targeted by the Project

### NUTRITION

Nutrition interventions targeted eight drought-affected districts, improving service delivery and community education. The project trained 322 health workers and 2,112 community-based volunteers (CBVs). This built their knowledge and skills to deliver quality care indirectly benefiting all clients they served. CBVs continue to provide accurate and timely nutrition education to 211,200 people, with each covering 100 households on average consistently influencing adoption of positive nutrition practices. Approximately 3 million people were indirectly reached with nutrition messages via national and community radio programs. Additionally, 10,200 multi-sectoral drought posters were distributed to 636 health facilities in the targeted districts. Community engagement was strengthened through the mobilization of 1,923 traditional and religious leaders and 7,694 male champions, increasing male involvement in nutrition activities. These efforts directly impacted 75,645 community members, fostering collaboration and raising awareness to address the drought's effects on nutrition and health.

### WASH

More than 2.2 million people in the targeted districts were indirectly reached through radio programming on 5 community radio programs across project districts that highlighted the importance of handwashing, safe water storage, and the proper use of hygiene kits addressing myths and misconceptions about hygiene practices.

## 6. CERF Results Framework

<b>Project objective</b>	To provide life-saving integrated WASH and Nutrition service to the drought affected and most vulnerable population in severely food insecure districts.			
<b>Output 1</b>	An estimated 96,000 women, men and children in IPC4 drought-affected districts have basic drinking water, improved knowledge and skills/capacity on drinking water handling and conservation, and hand hygiene.			
<b>Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Sector/cluster</b>	Nutrition			
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Achieved</b>	<b>Source of verification</b>
Indicator 1.1	Number of targeted Healthcare Facilities with access to basic water supply	48	51	Field monitoring reports
Indicator 1.2	WS.6 Number of people accessing sufficient and safe water for drinking, cooking and/or personal hygiene use as per agreed sector standard (Number of persons in catchment population with access to basic water.)	96,000	112,500	Field monitoring reports
Indicator 1.3	WS.17 Number of people receiving WASH/hygiene messaging	96,000	112,500	Distribution report; partners report
Indicator 1.4	WS.16a Number of people receiving critical WASH supplies (e.g. WASH/hygiene kits)	96,000	96,000	Distribution report; partners report
Indicator 1.5	WS.16b Number of WASH/hygiene kits distributed	19,200	19,200	Distribution report; partners report
<b>Explanation of output and indicators variance:</b>		The number of rehabilitated boreholes increased from 48 to 138, including 51 at healthcare facilities, 7 at schools, and 80 in communities. This expansion		

contributed to a 67% increase in borehole rehabilitation, directly benefiting more people with safe water. This achievement was made possible through cost savings achieved by leveraging existing borehole contracts with negotiated rates, enhancing cost efficiency. Each borehole serves an average of 250 individuals. The increase in beneficiaries with access to sufficient and safe water (indicator 1.2) also includes those receiving disinfectant for household water treatment. Additionally, the expansion into three new districts enabled an additional 16,500 people to access safe water, exceeding the target of 96,000 beneficiaries and reaching a total of 112,500. This increased geographic coverage, and the successful use of cost-effective strategies resulted in higher-than-expected outcomes, furthering the program's impact on improving water access in the targeted areas contributing significantly to improved water security. The use of Community-Based Volunteers (CBVs) for door-to-door distribution of household WASH kits and hygiene promotion messaging ensured the precise achievement of the target, reaching 96,000 people across 19,200 households. The exact number of kits procured further reflects accurate planning and successful execution.

Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 1.1	Conduct rapid borehole status assessment to identify boreholes for rehabilitation.	UNICEF; Contractors; District WASH Coordinators
Activity 1.2	Rehabilitate existing non-functional boreholes and establish/strengthen operation & maintenance mechanisms.	UNICEF, Contractors, Provincial and District
Activity 1.3	Conduct hygiene-promotion/water conservation messaging for people in communities and healthcare facilities.	WASH Coordinators
Activity 1.4	Procurement and distribution of WASH kits/household water treatment supplies	UNICEF, RICAP, CBVs,
Activity 1.5	Project supervision & monitoring	UNICEF, Consulting firm

**Output 2** Increased access to malnutrition prevention and treatment services for pregnant and lactating women and children under five

**Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage?** Yes  No

Sector/cluster	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 2.1	N.4 Number of people screened for acute malnutrition	125,911	169,948	DHS2
Indicator 2.2	N.5 Number of people receiving vitamins and/or micronutrient supplements	40,586	46,865	DHIS2
Indicator 2.3	N.6 Number of people receiving training and/or awareness sessions on maternal, infant and young child feeding in emergencies	45,458	45,841	DHIS2
Indicator 2.4	N.3a Number of people admitted to SAM treatment programme (therapeutic feeding)*The estimated	956	1,276	DHIS2

	caseloads and targets will be updated following an on-going SMART survey			
Indicator 2.5	N.3b Percentage of people who were admitted for SAM treatment who recovered (SAM recovery rate)	75%	77%	DHIS2

**Explanation of output and indicators variance:**

The nutrition sector achieved remarkable success during the drought response, surpassing all key targets. A total of 169,948 children aged 6–59 months were screened for acute malnutrition, exceeding the target of 125,911 by 35%. This achievement reflects strengthened outreach efforts, enhanced capacity of community volunteers, and the distribution of MUAC tapes, which ensured effective and widespread screening. Additionally, 45,841 people attended awareness sessions on Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN), surpassing the target of 45,458, driven by targeted community engagement and innovative mobilization strategies. Admissions to SAM treatment programs surpassed initial estimates by 33%. This increase is linked to increased screening coverage, which identified more children with severe wasting. Although drought was anticipated, the severity of its impact was unprecedented directly affecting food security and household nutrition, significantly contributing to the higher-than-expected outcomes. The SAM recovery rate reached 77%, exceeding the 75% target, reflecting improved quality care by trained health workers and consistent availability of therapeutic commodities in all supported health facilities enabling effective case management and timely referrals. Additionally, the targets established during the proposal phase were based on the 2018 Zambia Demographic Health Survey estimates, which were the most recent at that time.

Activities	Description	Implemented by
Activity 2.1	Active case-finding to facilitate timely referrals and treatment of children with severe wasting and high-risk moderate wasting	UNICEF, People in Need, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision
Activity 2.2	Procurement and pre-positioning of supplies for the prevention and treatment of malnutrition (micronutrient supplements and therapeutic foods)	UNICEF, People in Need, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision
Activity 2.3	Orientation and support supervision of health workers and community-based volunteers to implement nutrient supplementation and wasting management interventions	UNICEF, People in Need, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision
Activity 2.4	Protein and calorie supplementation for children 6-23 months in 3 of the 8 districts	UNICEF, People in Need, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision
Activity 2.5	Maternal, infant and young child feeding counselling and community-level nutrition education for pregnant and lactating women, and caregivers of children under five	UNICEF, People in Need, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision
Activity 2.6	Multiple micronutrient supplementation of pregnant women and children 6-23 months	UNICEF, People in Need, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision

## 7. Effective Programming

CERF expects partners to integrate and give due consideration to cross-cutting issues such as Accountability to Affected People (AAP), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), People with disabilities (PwD), Centrality of Protection as well as Gender and

Age. In addition, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) has identified four underfunded priority areas<sup>6</sup> often lacking appropriate consideration and visibility: women and girls, people with disabilities, education and protection. **The following sections demonstrate how cross-cutting issues and the ERC's four underfunded priority areas have been addressed through project activities and should highlight the achieved impact wherever possible.**

#### **a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)<sup>7</sup>:**

As part of UNICEF's Core Commitments for Children (CCC), accountability to affected populations (AAP) was fully integrated into this response. UNICEF and its partners actively engaged with affected communities through various forums, ensuring their voices were heard and their needs addressed. These forums included meetings with community members, dialogues with community leaders, and engagement with other key stakeholders to foster inclusive participation and transparency. Through these platforms, the beneficiaries were provided opportunities to share their perspectives, concerns, and suggestions regarding the interventions. Community members were involved in identifying priority needs, tailoring responses to their specific contexts, and providing feedback on the quality and relevance of the services delivered.

To promote Accountability to Affected People, UNICEF through its partners supported the establishment/strengthening of community feedback mechanism platforms at community level. Through these platforms, communities were able to provide their feedback and concerns. Feedback was further received through live phone in radio programs where questions, suggestions, complaints were aired and addressed. Additionally, the provision of WASH assistance was implemented in consultation with the affected communities. Household selection followed vulnerability criteria established by village leaders, including female-headed households, families with children under 5 years old, elderly individuals, and households with limited access to safe water. UNICEF conducted end-user monitoring in each district, gathering feedback from the affected populations to assess and verify the quality and effectiveness of the facilities and items provided.

#### **b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:**

Feedback and complaint mechanisms were a cornerstone of UNICEF's commitment to accountability to affected populations throughout the project. To ensure accessibility and confidentiality, UNICEF and its partners established dedicated grievance lines in all health facilities across Sioma, Sikongo, and Senanga districts, offering community members a safe, direct channel for reporting issues and providing feedback on services. These grievance lines were promoted as a confidential resource for all members of the community, ensuring that sensitive issues could be raised without fear of stigma or retribution. UNICEF worked closely with community and faith leaders, who served as trusted intermediaries within their communities. These leaders facilitated two-way communication, spreading key information about the project, and collecting feedback from community members, which was then relayed to project implementers. Targeted engagement with men through sensitization sessions helped address social norms that may have hindered women and children from fully taking up health and nutrition services thus increasing uptake. The primary feedback mechanisms employed in the program were face-to-face discussions with the affected communities and feedback collection through a radio program. WASH project monitoring involved conducting end-user monitoring in the targeted districts, which included field visits and discussions with provincial and district health officials, healthcare facilities, village leaders, and households. This multi-faceted approach ensured that feedback was not only received but acted upon. The combination of phone lines, community leaders, and sensitization efforts created a feedback loop that

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<sup>6</sup> These areas include: support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and empowerment; programmes targeting people with disabilities; education in protracted crises; and other aspects of protection. The ERC recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and UNCTs/HCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. While CERF remains needs-based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas. Please see the Questions and Answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

<sup>7</sup> AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the [IASC AAP commitments](#).

empowered the community, enhanced transparency, and allowed for real-time adaptation of project activities to better serve the needs of the affected populations.

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#### **c. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):**

UNICEF prioritized the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) throughout the project to ensure the dignity and safety of all participants. This was achieved by orienting all implementing partners on PSEA policies and conducting thorough risk assessments to mitigate any SEA risks. Key stakeholders, including health workers and community-based volunteers, were trained on PSEA principles, reporting mechanisms, and accountability frameworks. Additionally, community members were sensitized on the risks of SEA, with clear reporting pathways provided, including child helplines and lifeline numbers (116 and 933). Frontline workers received PSEA training before deployment to ensure they understood their role in preventing and reporting SEA. No SEA incidents were reported during the project, and UNICEF implemented help desks at food distribution centres to improve reporting processes, further strengthening SEA prevention efforts during the ongoing drought emergency.

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#### **d. Focus on women, girls and sexual and gender minorities, including gender-based violence:**

UNICEF's response prioritized gender equality and the protection of vulnerable groups, particularly women, girls, the elderly, the chronically ill and people with disabilities, through inclusive and gender-sensitive interventions. Emphasis was placed on ensuring access to safe, reliable and dignified water supply systems by drilling new boreholes, rehabilitating broken water facilities and distributing WASH supplies, including liquid chlorine and soap, ensuring access to clean water and sanitation for vulnerable populations. Outreach programs enhanced access to essential health and nutrition services to women and children, including those with limited access to maternal and child health care. Door to door delivery of nutrition services was used to reach those at risk because of disability or societal stigma. The project also engaged community structures to support women-headed and child-headed households, ensuring the needs of marginalized groups were addressed and promoting their empowerment and protection throughout the intervention.

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#### **e. People with disabilities (PwD):**

UNICEF actively promoted the dignity and inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) as a core component of its response, ensuring that no one was left behind. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities and the Deaf Society of Zambia, UNICEF adapted and translated cholera IEC materials into Braille and sign language. These materials, such as the posters and the CBV job aids, were tailored to the specific needs of PwDs and distributed to disability centers across Zambia. Furthermore, UNICEF and its partners conducted door-to-door screenings for all children, including those with disabilities, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women. This personalized approach reached vulnerable groups who could have faced barriers accessing health facilities, promoting inclusivity and equity in service delivery. Hygiene kits were delivered close to PwDs, through house-to-house visits, ensuring protection and safety for men, women, girls, and boys with disabilities.

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#### **f. Protection:**

Protection was mainstreamed throughout the CERF-funded project by ensuring that all interventions prioritized the safety, dignity, and well-being of affected persons, especially the most vulnerable groups such as women, children, and people with disabilities. Protection outcomes were integrated into service delivery, including providing safe spaces for women and children at nutrition outreaches and health facilities, and ensuring hygiene kits included menstrual hygiene management items. Key child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) response messages were incorporated into the training of 322 health workers and 2,112 community-based volunteers. Child protection messages, PSEA and GBV awareness were also integrated into community sensitization sessions and outreach activities across sectors.

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#### **g. Education:**

Education was integrated into the project design by addressing the WASH needs of schools in the targeted districts. Seven schools benefited from the rehabilitation of non-functional boreholes, ensuring access to safe water, which contributed to a healthier

learning environment. This intervention enhanced hygiene practices, improved the safety of the learning environment for both students and staff thus catalysing better educational outcomes. In addition, schools located in at-risk areas like informal settlements were prioritized for the distribution of soap and hand washing buckets, helping prevent cholera outbreaks and reduce disruptions to education. The project also promoted safe back-to-school hygiene practices, ensuring that children and school staff were equipped with the necessary tools to maintain hygiene and prevent disease transmission.

## 8. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

### Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?

Planned	Achieved	Total number of people receiving cash assistance:
No	Choose an item.	[Fill in]

If **no**, please describe why CVA was not considered. Where feasible, CVA should be considered as a default response option, and multi-purpose cash (MPC) should be utilised wherever possible.

If **yes**, briefly note how CVA is being used, highlighting the use of MPC, and if any linkages to existing social protection systems have been explored.

This is because of the following reasons:

- **Sector-Specific Nature of Interventions** – The CERF-funded response prioritized lifesaving Nutrition and WASH interventions, which required the direct provision of specialized supplies such as Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF), therapeutic milk (F-75, F-100), water treatment chemicals, hygiene kits, and emergency repairs to water points. The urgency and specificity of these interventions made in-kind support more effective and logistically feasible than cash-based programming.
- **Limited Market Functionality** – In the most affected drought-prone districts, market access was unreliable, and essential commodities such as therapeutic food, safe water, and hygiene supplies were not readily available. This made CVA an impractical option, as affected populations would have struggled to purchase necessary items locally.
- **Time Sensitivity and Immediate Needs** – The rapid onset of acute malnutrition in children and the urgent need for clean water required immediate interventions that could not wait for market-based solutions. UNICEF prioritized direct service delivery to ensure uninterrupted access to treatment and safe water for the most vulnerable populations.
- **WASH Infrastructure and Public Health Considerations** – The response involved rehabilitating water points, improving sanitation, and providing emergency WASH supplies, which could not be effectively addressed through CVA. Direct technical interventions were necessary to restore safe water access, prevent waterborne diseases, and curb the cholera outbreak risk.

### Parameters of the used CVA modality:

Specified CVA activity (incl. activity # from results framework above)	Number of people receiving CVA	Value of cash (US\$)	Sector/cluster	Restriction
[Fill in]	[Fill in]	US\$ [insert amount]	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
[Fill in]	[Fill in]	US\$ [insert amount]	Choose an item.	Choose an item.
[Fill in]	[Fill in]	US\$ [insert amount]	Choose an item.	Choose an item.

## 9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities

Title	Weblink
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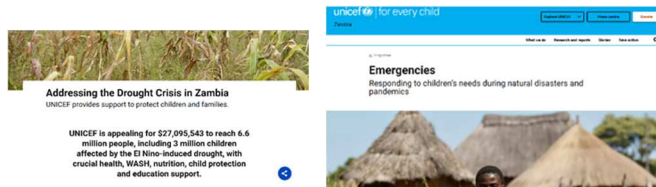
Videos	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#"><u>Zambia's Drought Crisis   Families and Children Struggle Amidst El Niño</u></a></li> <li>2. <a href="#"><u>Jane highlights foods the community eats</u></a></li> <li>3. <a href="#"><u>Namamba's story of struggle and resilience during drought</u></a></li> <li>4. <a href="#"><u>Documentary on drought situation in Shang'ombo</u></a></li> </ol>
Web Story and reports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="https://www.unicef.org/zambia/stories/drought-shangombo"><u>https://www.unicef.org/zambia/stories/drought-shangombo</u></a></li> <li>2. <a href="#"><u>Zambia Humanitarian Situation Report   UNICEF Zambia</u></a></li> <li>3. <a href="#"><u>UNICEF Zambia Cholera and Drought Response   UNICEF Zambia</u></a></li> </ol>
Social Media	<p><b>Facebook</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Y2mnp9XoB/"><u>https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1Y2mnp9XoB/</u></a></li> <li>2. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1B7orDVXH4/"><u>https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1B7orDVXH4/</u></a></li> <li>3. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BsvSDMYx5/"><u>https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BsvSDMYx5/</u></a></li> </ol> <p><b>Tweets</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="https://x.com/unicefzambia/status/1882094102323597760"><u>https://x.com/unicefzambia/status/1882094102323597760</u></a></li> <li>2. <a href="https://x.com/unicefzambia/status/1877970068304183793"><u>https://x.com/unicefzambia/status/1877970068304183793</u></a></li> <li>3. <a href="https://x.com/unicefzambia/status/1865432910209106091"><u>https://x.com/unicefzambia/status/1865432910209106091</u></a></li> <li>4. <a href="https://x.com/ChellaBN/status/1855884836319224127"><u>https://x.com/ChellaBN/status/1855884836319224127</u></a></li> <li>5. <a href="https://x.com/unicefzambia/status/1872264345595650139"><u>https://x.com/unicefzambia/status/1872264345595650139</u></a></li> </ol> <p><b>Instagram</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="https://www.instagram.com/p/DFliq3WKpmx/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&amp;igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA=="><u>https://www.instagram.com/p/DFliq3WKpmx/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&amp;igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==</u></a></li> <li>2. <a href="https://www.instagram.com/reel/DErNyS-MpK0/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&amp;igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA=="><u>https://www.instagram.com/reel/DErNyS-MpK0/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&amp;igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==</u></a></li> <li>3. <a href="https://www.instagram.com/reel/DDS15PqNg1/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&amp;igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA=="><u>https://www.instagram.com/reel/DDS15PqNg1/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&amp;igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==</u></a></li> </ol>

Media Coverage

Panel Discussion at ZNBC TV1. Discussion was about the impact of drought crisis in Zambia and the documentary showing the impact of drought in Shang'ombo district was aired on the programme.



UNICEF emergencies site, and drought page



As part of the drought response efforts, an emergency landing page on the UNICEF Zambia Country Office website was created. This platform served as a central hub for impactful content on the drought situation and is highlighting the devastating effects of the drought on children, health, nutrition and education. The content was shared with key stakeholders, including the government line ministries, affected communities, and partners, to foster awareness and collaboration. Additionally, we leveraged META to promote this content, building traction and amplifying awareness of the crisis. These efforts were complemented by direct engagement with affected communities to better understand their coping mechanisms and identify tailored support solutions, ensuring a comprehensive and responsive approach to the drought crisis.

### 3.4 Project Report 24-RR-WFP-021

1. Project Information			
Agency:	WFP	Country:	Zambia
Sector/cluster:	Food Security - Food Assistance	CERF project code:	24-RR-WFP-021
Project title:	Provision of lifesaving emergency food assistance (cash-based transfer) to vulnerable people affected by drought in five districts of Western Province in Zambia.		
Start date:	01/05/2024	End date:	30/11/2024
Project revisions:	No-cost extension <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Redeployment of funds <input type="checkbox"/>	Reprogramming <input type="checkbox"/>
Funding	Total requirement for agency's sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 96,000,000
	Total funding received for agency's sector response to current emergency:		US\$ 59,628,678
	Amount received from CERF:		US\$ 2,402,555
	Total CERF funds sub-granted to implementing partners:		US\$ 1,154
	Government Partners		US\$ 0
	International NGOs		US\$ 1,154
	National NGOs		US\$ 0
Red Cross/Crescent Organisation		US\$ 0	

### 2. Project Results Summary/Overall Performance

Through this CERF grant, WFP and its partners provided critical food assistance via cash-based transfers to 189,196 people (37,840 households), comprising 60,092 women, 58,966 men, and 70,138 children; among the population reached, approximately 2% were persons with disabilities. The first round of payments was distributed in August to beneficiaries in Sioma and Shangombo. To strengthen implementation, 364 government and partner staff were trained on distribution processes and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The project also conducted 347 community sensitization activities, process monitoring, and post-distribution monitoring exercises to enhance efficiency and accountability.

Protection activities including community awareness, feedback and grievance mechanisms were provided for all targeted beneficiaries. In collaboration with UNFPA, 1,283 people received protection support and messaging to improve operational efficiency. Additionally, nutrition education was provided to all targeted beneficiaries, including pregnant and lactating women. To advance gender, protection, and inclusion (GPI) mainstreaming, 319 implementing actors (171 women, 148 men) were trained and sensitized, with subsequent rollout efforts aiming to reach 60,000 women and 15,000 men with key messaging.

To strengthen emergency response coordination, the project facilitated the establishment of the Western Province Sub-National Food Security Cluster in collaboration with the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU). This included co-chairing five monthly coordination meetings to improve response effectiveness at the subnational level. Furthermore, the project provided logistics support to DMMU for movement of 420MT to hard-to-reach locations. Overall WFP facilitated the movement of 12,938 metric tons (MT) of food to 81 districts, enough to provide for 1,069,256 people for one month. Total logistics costs

The project directly supported 189,196 individuals in meeting their minimum food and nutrition needs across Shang'ombo, Sioma, Senanga, and Sikongo districts in Western Province between July and December 2024. This intervention was a crucial part of the emergency response following the February 2024 presidential declaration on the drought crisis, which affected the livelihoods and food security of 9.8 million people.

Beyond immediate food assistance, the project contributed to improved nutrition awareness and dietary habits. By working through DMMU and local actors, the project strengthened the government's emergency preparedness and response capacity. The establishment of a sub-national coordination mechanism in Western Province enhanced response effectiveness, scale, and reach, while also improving accountability, decision-making, communication, and information-sharing among stakeholders.

### 3. Changes and Amendments

The project was implemented as per the original proposal with no significant changes or deviations. However, delays were encountered primarily due to challenges in beneficiary targeting and validation processes, which involved extensive back-and-forth coordination between WFP and the government through the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS). These delays, coupled with unforeseen challenges faced by service providers during cash distribution, affected the timely start of distributions in certain districts.

To ensure the effective completion of all project deliverables and proper financial reconciliation, in September 2024 WFP requested and secured a one-month no-cost extension. Several key factors contributed to these delays, including:

- Delays in aligning beneficiary targeting processes between WFP and MCDSS, which required additional time for validation.
- Necessary updates to financial service provider contracts to accommodate increased delivery amounts.
- Logistical challenges, particularly the long distances between response locations, which affected the timeliness of targeting and distributions.

Coordination impasse between humanitarian and social protection sectors regarding transfer values where the social protection sector proposed a transfer value far lower than the established minimum expenditure basket and focused on wider coverage, while the humanitarian sector advocated for adequacy and the need to provide assistance based solely on need. Despite these challenges, the project successfully reached its intended beneficiaries, and all necessary adjustments were made to ensure the completion of activities within the extended timeline.

#### 4. Number of People Directly Assisted with CERF Funding\*

Sector/cluster	Food Security - Food Assistance									
Category	Planned					Reached				
	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
Refugees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Returnees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Internally displaced people	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Host communities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other affected people	44,700	43,466	51,222	49,808	189,196	60,092	58,966	35,353	34,785	189,196
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,700</b>	<b>43,466</b>	<b>51,222</b>	<b>49,808</b>	<b>189,196</b>	<b>60,092</b>	<b>58,966</b>	<b>35,353</b>	<b>34,785</b>	<b>189,196</b>
<b>People with disabilities (PwD) out of the total</b>										
	4,917	4,781	5,634	5,479	20,811	1,061	1,201	912	701	3,875

\* Figures represent best estimates of people directly supported through CERF funding. Disaggregation by sex and age represents women and men ≥18, girls and boys <18.

## 5. People Indirectly Targeted by the Project

This project focused solely on 189,196 direct beneficiaries; however, its ripple effects extended beyond the targeted individuals. Direct beneficiaries were empowered to share resources, knowledge, and opportunities within their communities, amplifying the project's impact. A significant portion of this indirect reach was observed among extended family members, who benefited from shared financial support and improved access to services. Additionally, the project's influence extended to broader community members, who gained from the enhanced economic and social activities initiated by direct beneficiaries.

## 6. CERF Results Framework

**Project objective** Address emergency food needs of vulnerable populations affected by the drought

**Output 1** Critical food assistance is timely delivered to targeted drought-affected locations

**Was the planned output changed through a reprogramming after the application stage?** Yes  No

Sector/cluster	Food Security - Food Assistance			
Indicators	Description	Target	Achieved	Source of verification
Indicator 1.1	FN.1a Number of people receiving hybrid (cash and in-kind) food assistance	35,000	60,655	Distribution and Post Distribution Reports
Indicator 1.2	FN.1b Quantity of food assistance distributed in MT	420MT	12,938MT	Distribution and Post Distribution Reports
Indicator 1.3	Cash.2a Number of people receiving sector-specific unconditional cash transfers	189,196	189,196	Distribution and Post Distribution Reports
Indicator 1.4	Cash 2b Amount of cash assistance distributed in USD	USD2,118,995	2,118,995	Signed payment lists
Indicator 1.5	FS.3 Average reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)	<8	15.3	Outcome monitoring
Indicator 1.6	FS.4 Percentage of people enabled to meet their basic food needs	100%	65.3	Outcome monitoring
Indicator 1.7	FS.5c Percentage of households with a poor food consumption score	<20%	34.7	Outcome monitoring

**Explanation of output and indicators variance:**

The outcome monitoring indicators remain below target, primarily due to the insufficient transfer value, which currently covers only 33% of the required kilocalories. However, these indicators are expected to stabilize post-lean season, as the availability of seasonal foods increases at the end of the 2024/25 rainy season, improving household food consumption.

WFP initially planned to use CERF funds to provide logistical support for distributing 420 MT of government relief maize from central storage in Lusaka to hard-to-reach areas. However, since the government-donated maize was instead moved from provincial and district depots, the distribution costs were lower than anticipated. As a result, WFP was able to transport a higher tonnage of 12,938MT within the same logistical budget since maize from the government was available closer to beneficiaries at district level.

Activities	Description	Implemented by
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Activity 1.1	Procurement of food commodities	N/A
Activity 1.2	Food delivery to final distribution points	WFP
Activity 1.3	Food and cash distribution	WFP
Activity 1.4	Contracting of financial service providers	WFP

## 7. Effective Programming

CERF expects partners to integrate and give due consideration to cross-cutting issues such as Accountability to Affected People (AAP), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), People with disabilities (PwD), Centrality of Protection as well as Gender and Age. In addition, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) has identified four underfunded priority areas<sup>8</sup> often lacking appropriate consideration and visibility: women and girls, people with disabilities, education and protection. **The following sections demonstrate how cross-cutting issues and the ERC's four underfunded priority areas have been addressed through project activities and should highlight the achieved impact wherever possible.**

### a. Accountability to Affected People (AAP)<sup>9</sup>:

As a starting point, WFP leveraged the government's emergency cash transfer (ECT) enumeration list for beneficiary identification. This was augmented through a community-based targeting and validation approach, working closely with community leaders, diverse groups, and implementing partners to identify eligible beneficiaries. Selection criteria were developed collaboratively with WFP, the community, and the complaints committee, ensuring transparency and inclusivity.

Beneficiary eligibility was defined by the communities, including ranking of vulnerable categories for prioritization. This included nutritionally vulnerable groups, including female-headed households, individuals with disabilities, and women with a high dependency ratio. The process leveraged existing district-level structures and was implemented in coordination with government district officials.

To enhance accountability and accuracy, WFP conducted a 10% validation exercise, assessing the level of inclusion and targeting effectiveness using rapid socio-economic and food security data.

### b. AAP Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms:

WFP continues to uphold its Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) policy through corporate guidelines that prevent and mitigate protection risks, including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). WFP has actively raised awareness among committees and implementing partners about their responsibilities, ensuring beneficiary protection and accountability. To strengthen beneficiary feedback and reporting, WFP integrated protection risk questions into its monitoring tools, addressing challenges in accessing reporting channels. Before cash distribution, implementing partners conducted pre-distribution meetings with beneficiaries to inform them about entitlements, rights, distribution processes, and feedback mechanisms. At food distribution sites, help desks with gender representation were established to document and address concerns, with findings recorded in a recommendation tracker.

<sup>8</sup> These areas include: support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and empowerment; programmes targeting people with disabilities; education in protracted crises; and other aspects of protection. The ERC recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and UNCTs/HCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. While CERF remains needs-based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas. Please see the Questions and Answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

<sup>9</sup> AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the [IASC AAP commitments](#).

To expand the reach of complaints and feedback, WFP supported the DMMU call center, which operates a toll-free number (909) for disaster reporting, preparedness inquiries, and emergency assistance requests. WFP closely monitored the Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (CFM) to ensure accessibility and responsiveness. To assess the safety and effectiveness of distributions, WFP conducted independent Beneficiary Contact Monitoring (BCM) at cash distribution sites, evaluating protection risks, crowd control mechanisms, and the presence of relief committees. Findings were securely documented using the Mobile Data Collection and Analytics (MODA) application. Additionally, WFP carried out Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) between September 25 and December 7, 2024, to assess beneficiary satisfaction, access, utilization, and quality of assistance. The PDM also examined gender, protection, and accountability indicators, providing crucial insights into household food security and the effectiveness of interventions in Western Province. I as crosscutting indicators such as gender, protection, and accountability to affected populations, and household food security status.

#### **c. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):**

WFP through its Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) focal points, held regular trainings to raise awareness and ensure all complaints can be properly channelled and handled. Visibility materials were distributed at each distribution site. WFP continued to include PSEA inductions in the onboarding process for new staff and conducted refresher trainings on PSEA for all staff. Additionally, drought response implementing partners as well as agro dealers and retailers were trained on PSEA. To leverage interagency synergies, WFP and UNFPA worked jointly to strengthen capacities of key actors at community level on PSEA (see protection monitors under (d.)) as well as staffing PSEA Grievance Desks at distribution sites together with relevant civil society organizations.

#### **d. Focus on women, girls and sexual and gender minorities, including gender-based violence:**

As part of the drought response, WFP and UNFPA, in collaboration with the local NGO Lifeline Childline Zambia, piloted an integrated approach to enhance protection and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. This initiative included mobile SRH clinics and dedicated Grievance Desks for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and gender-based violence (GBV) at distribution sites, alongside community sensitization sessions on gender equality, GBV, PSEA, and family planning. Additionally, 227 protection monitors were trained to serve as community liaisons, raising awareness on GBV, PSEA, and available protection services. These monitors, drawn from DMMU, the Gender Division, Neighbourhood Health Committees (NHCs), Community-Based Volunteers (CBVs), Community Welfare Assistance Committees (CWACs), disaster management units, DMMU satellites, and the Police Victim Support Unit, play a critical role in connecting communities with specialized services. Their responsibilities include raising awareness at distribution sites and in communities, operating grievance desks, and promoting the 933/116 helpline through information, education, and communication (IEC) materials.

#### **e. People with disabilities (PwD):**

WFP collaborated with the Zambia Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ZAPD), United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) to engage Organizations of and for Persons with Disabilities in Western Province. on disability-inclusive food security training in the context of the drought response.

Additionally, drought response implementing partners, agro-dealers, and retailers received training through a comprehensive "Gender, Protection, and Inclusion" (GPI) onboarding. This ensured that barriers faced by persons with disabilities were considered in drought response interventions, promoting a more inclusive and equitable approach to food security.

#### **f. Protection:**

Protection efforts of affected persons has been promoted by conducting comprehensive onboardings on Gender, Protection, Inclusion and PSEA of implementing partners, agro-dealers and retailers. As mentioned under PSEA, capacities on community level were strengthened by building-up protection monitors (explanation under d.) to be able to identify, report and address emerging protection issues. In addition, distribution points are equipped with help and grievance desks, where affected community members can report their grievances in person, use a suggestion box or alternatively informed about relevant tollfree hotlines



at their disposal. To further guarantee beneficiary accountability, WFP included questions on protection risks in all its monitoring tools to address challenges in accessing reporting channels. These tools were updated in line with the minimum monitoring requirements and the risk monitoring framework.

**g. Education:**

N/A

**8. Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)**

**Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?**

Planned	Achieved	Total number of people receiving cash assistance:
Yes, CVA is a component of the CERF project	Yes, CVA is a component of the CERF project	189,196

If **no**, please describe why CVA was not considered. Where feasible, CVA should be considered as a default response option, and multi-purpose cash (MPC) should be utilised wherever possible.

If **yes**, briefly note how CVA is being used, highlighting the use of MPC, and if any linkages to existing social protection systems have been explored.

Unconditional multi-purpose cash was provided to food-insecure households affected by drought, enabling them to meet their essential needs. The transfer value was set at approximately 50% of the minimum expenditure basket, based on findings from a rapid assessment.

This cash assistance empowered households with the flexibility to prioritise urgent needs. According to post distribution monitoring findings, most households allocated a larger share of their entitlements towards food purchases. Designed to complement the government’s shock-responsive social protection efforts, the intervention leveraged existing social protection structures in the response areas for targeting and efficient delivery.

**Parameters of the used CVA modality:**

Specified CVA activity (incl. activity # from results framework above)	Number of people receiving CVA	Value of cash (US\$)	Sector/cluster	Restriction
Food assistance through cash transfers	189,196	US\$ 2,118,995	Food Security - Food Assistance	Restricted

**9. Visibility of CERF-funded Activities**

Title	Weblink
Twitter Post – Pictures of the week	<a href="https://x.com/WFP_Zambia/status/1816861381385191820">https://x.com/WFP_Zambia/status/1816861381385191820</a>
WFP Zambia November Country Brief	<a href="#">WFP Zambia Country Brief, November 2024 - Zambia   ReliefWeb</a>
WFP Drought Response Brief - July	<a href="#">WFP Zambia Drought Response, July 2024 - Zambia   ReliefWeb</a>

Seeds of Hope (Story by OCHA comms supported by UN Zambia Comms for WFP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNHCR)

[Seeds of hope: Zambia's fight against drought | OCHA](#)

Information update on drought response by the UN system

[United Nations Information Update on Drought Response August 2024](#)

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[1] These areas include: support for women and girls, including tackling gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and empowerment; programmes targeting people with disabilities; education in protracted crises; and other aspects of protection. The ERC recommended an increased focus on these four areas to ensure that they be given due consideration by RC/HCs and UNCTs/HCTs when prioritizing life-saving needs for inclusion in CERF requests. While CERF remains needs-based, the ERC will be looking for country teams to prioritize projects and mainstreamed activities that systematically and effectively address to these four historically underfunded areas. Please see the Questions and Answers on the ERC four priority areas [here](#).

[2] AAP and PSEA are part and parcel of IASC commitments, and therefore mandatory for compliance for all UN agencies and partners. Agencies do not necessarily need to establish new AAP and PSEA mechanisms for CERF projects if functioning ones are already in place. For more information please refer to the [IASC AAP commitments](#).

[3] A closed loop feedback/complaint mechanism allows for the confidential collection of feedback/complaints from all community members and ensures confidentially reverting to the individual complainants, indicating the results of how the complaint was addressed by the implementer. It should be permanently accessible to all community members and offer a secure line of communication between them and the implementer. Examples of mechanisms could be (and are not limited to): complaints boxes, hotline numbers, complaints desks (if they can ensure confidentiality), Staff on field missions or community consultations for example do not constitute viable feedback/complaint mechanisms, as they are not permanently available to communities and cannot guarantee confidentiality.

## ANNEX: CERF FUNDS DISBURSED TO IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

CERF Project Code	Cluster/Sector	Agency	Partner Type	Total CERF Funds Transferred to Partner US\$
24-RR-CEF-025	Nutrition	UNICEF	INGO	\$106,893
24-RR-CEF-025	Nutrition	UNICEF	INGO	\$258,384
24-RR-CEF-025	Nutrition	UNICEF	INGO	\$36,236
24-RR-CEF-025	Nutrition	UNICEF	INGO	\$166,437
24-RR-CEF-025	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	UNICEF	GOV	\$2,710
24-RR-CEF-025	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	UNICEF	GOV	\$4,822
24-RR-CEF-025	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	UNICEF	GOV	\$2,574
24-RR-CEF-025	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	UNICEF	GOV	\$1,806
24-RR-CEF-025	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	UNICEF	GOV	\$828
24-RR-CEF-025	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	UNICEF	NNGO	\$23,363
24-RR-CEF-025	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	UNICEF	GOV	\$1,496
24-RR-CEF-025	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	UNICEF	GOV	\$1,938
24-RR-CEF-025	Protection	UNHCR	NNGO	\$90,000
24-RR-CEF-025	Protection	UNHCR	NNGO	\$50,000
24-RR-WFP-021	Food Security - Food Assistance	WFP	INGO	\$1,154