

# UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION ZAMBIA IN 2009



Core Country Data	
Population under 18 (thousands)	6,270
U5 mortality rate*	119
Infant mortality rate*	70
Maternal mortality ratio*	449
Primary school enrolment ratio (net 2007)**	102.42
Primary school enrolment ratio for girls (net)**	102.33
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)*	79.7
% population using improved drinking-water sources***	58
HIV/AIDS prevalence*	14.3
% U5 suffering moderate and severe malnutrition*	14.6

Sources: *The State of the World's Children 2009*, \*Zambia Demographic and Health Survey 2008, \*\*Education Statistical Bulletin 2007, \*\*\*WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water and Sanitation Estimates for Zambia, 2006

In Zambia, UNICEF endeavours to support children and their families in a situation of acute and chronic vulnerability. Poverty levels are high and exacerbated by escalating costs. Deep impacts from the HIV and AIDS emergency leave families with little or no capacity to deal with additional external shocks. Already hard pressed to meet basic survival, education and development needs, when faced with further crises often due to natural disasters such as drought or flooding, families do not have the capacity to cope. UNICEF in Zambia proposes ongoing emergency preparedness and response actions aimed at reaching up to 100,000 potentially affected children, in support of its wider Country Programme to reduce vulnerabilities of all Zambian children over the long term (2,030,000 children under age five, i.e., 17 per cent of total population).

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*	
Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	729,638
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	2,400,000
Education	516,800
Child Protection	1,100,000
Mine Action	150,000
<b>Total**</b>	<b>4,896,438</b>

\* Funds received against this appeal will be used to respond to both the immediate and medium-term needs of children and women as outlined above. If UNICEF should receive funds in excess of the medium-term funding requirements for this emergency, UNICEF will use those funds to support other underfunded emergencies.

\*\* The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

## 1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

In spite of decades of positive development, the situation of children and women in Zambia remains largely one of vulnerability. While child and maternal mortality rates have dropped in recent years, they remain alarmingly high with under-five mortality at 119 per 1,000 live births, infant mortality at 70 per 1,000 live births, and maternal mortality ratio at 449 per 100,000 live births (Zambia Demographic and Health Survey 2008). More than 300,000 school-aged children are out of school and two thirds of girls do not complete their primary schooling. Water and sanitation coverage is also extremely low, with an estimated 4.8 million people without access to clean water and 6.6 million people without access to adequate sanitation. On top of this, HIV prevalence remains alarmingly high, at 14.3 per cent prevalence among the general population.

This ongoing vulnerability is exacerbated by the regular occurrence of natural disasters, which impact the lives and development of children and their families. While drought has been a frequent and powerful reality through the past decade, in 2007 and 2008 flooding has impacted large areas of the country, leaving families displaced from their homes, crops destroyed, and children out of school (40,460 severely and 64,736 moderately malnourished) and vulnerable to waterborne diseases. There is an urgent need for UNICEF and partners to prepare for the recurrence of this scenario, and ensure that future flooding – or drought – does not negatively impact the lives of children and women.

It is vitally important to urgently address the root causes of this vulnerability, including the dire poverty in which 64 per cent of the population lives (Zambia Living Conditions Monitoring Survey 2006). Rural communities are generally even more vulnerable to shocks with a rural poverty figure of 80 per cent. This is even more important in the context of high global food and fuel prices, which put the basic necessities of survival further out of the reach of many families. In a landlocked country largely dependent on road transport for diverse imports and for the export of minerals and the primary commodities that support the economy, high consumer prices are particularly significant as the changes threaten the competitiveness of Zambian production and sustainability of national markets. The cost of fertilizers and other commodities is also rising, causing uncertainty around prospects for the 2009 agricultural season (planting in early November). Besides the profitability of different livelihood ventures in different parts of the country, it is likely that rising costs of transport will affect the prices of food and other essentials, the cost of transport to markets, hospitals and schools, and the delivery of public and private sector services to community level, particularly remote communities. Whilst some households may be forced to reduce consumption in response to these changes (very likely resulting in increased malnutrition amongst children and women), others will adopt adverse coping strategies, which often depend on child labour and undermine children's rights and prospects for development.

## 2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2008

In close collaboration with local, national and international partners, UNICEF has continued to respond to the needs of Zambian children and their families in priority areas of health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and child protection. Serious flooding in 2008 added a new and complex dimension to this work as efforts turned to crisis intervention; however, with support of the UK Department for International Development (DfID) and the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Japan, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden, emergency response interventions were effectively carried out, with UNICEF taking a sector coordination role in health and nutrition, WASH, education and child protection.

Specific results in the first half of 2008 included: essential drugs, therapeutic milk and other medical and nutrition supplies were distributed to 70,000 affected people. Ministry of Health staff was trained in integrated disease surveillance, reporting and emergency preparedness and 27 health workers trained to prevent diarrhoea, using zinc and oral rehydration salts. Fifteen Ministry of Health staff were trained in integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) and community-based therapeutic care (CTC) for the management of severe acute malnutrition in five affected districts, targeting 19,373 malnourished children under age five. Emergency water and sanitation supplies were delivered to 37 emergency-affected districts benefiting more than 70,000 people. Emergency water supply systems and sanitation facilities were constructed for approximately 1,000 people in camps for the displaced in Southern Province. Construction and rehabilitation of 190 latrines in 91 affected schools were combined with hygiene education campaigns (impacting up to 25,000 children and their families). A total of 58 'school-in-a-box' kits, 40 recreational kits, 58 movable chalkboards and 36 tents were distributed to 20 flood-affected schools, benefiting some 10,000 children. Child-friendly spaces were established in more than 15 flood-affected camps and communities, covering a population of over 10,800 people amongst whom 5,800 are children. Household basic needs kits were distributed to 5,000 families, providing direct support to the care of children as part of wider multi-agency operations targeting the most affected, mainly 130,086 people (about 20,000 families) in Southern Province. More than 5,000 people in affected communities were provided with information on the prevention

of gender-based violence. Thanks to awareness-raising activities very few cases of child abuse (eight in a population of over 100,000) were reported, none resulting directly from the current situation. UNICEF supported the development of national capacity in rapid response planning with the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) and other national partners.

### 3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

#### Coordination and Partnership

Based on mutual agreement among UN agencies and other partners, UNICEF provides sector coordination leadership in health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and child protection, and is the co-lead for education (with Save the Children). UNICEF also provided technical, logistical and financial support to DMMU for rapid and in-depth assessments of flood impact, and for joint monitoring trips to affected districts. As part of response preparedness, UNICEF has developed a plan for district-level capacity development in assessment and planning, which is being rolled out in collaboration with DMMU.

#### Linkages of HAR with the Regular Programme

UNICEF is playing a leading role within the UN Country Team in support of the national multisectoral response to Zambia's vulnerable children. The current 2007–2010 Country Programme has four components – health, nutrition and HIV and AIDS; basic education I; water, sanitation and hygiene education (WASHE); and child protection – with a pre-eminent focus on HIV and AIDS. Of particular interest are the inclusion of the social safety nets and the protection of orphaned and vulnerable children. Likewise, priority attention is given to food shortages due to regular environmental impacts on crops and high food and fuel prices negatively affecting the nutritional status of children, particularly the increased prevalence of chronic and acute malnutrition, which is chronically worsened by the ongoing impact of HIV and AIDS on children infected and affected by the pandemic.

In 2009, UNICEF will increasingly focus on the root causes of vulnerability and poverty, mainly among rural children and their families, together with ongoing emergency preparedness actions to ensure rapid national response to short-term recurrent shocks, such as flooding and/or drought, which regularly impact parts of the country (targeting approximately 100,000 beneficiaries). UNICEF-supported programmes are expected to reach at least 6 million children and 4 million women in 2009.

#### Health and Nutrition (US\$ 729,638)

For 2009, the overall goal is to minimize the impact of the global food and fuel prices and of epidemics/floods on the health and nutritional status of children under age five, and to ensure that pregnant women in affected areas are identified and provided with micronutrient supplementation. Some estimated 100,000 displaced and impoverished persons will benefit from the following key activities:

- Procure and distribute essential emergency drugs and equipment to 300 health centres and essential drug supplies to 30 districts for 100,000 people;
- Procure and distribute measles vaccine, vitamin A and deworming tablets to 20,000 children under age five; administer deworming tablets to 5,400 pregnant women. This will be done through the 'Child Health Week' and through the regular programme;
- Continue supporting and, where appropriate, establish more community therapeutic feeding centres for 500 severely malnourished children (56 per cent of a total of 884 severely/moderately malnourished);
- Train 300 health staff in the management of severe malnutrition as a foundation for further, future training/expansion;
- Support the implementation of nutrition surveys, assessments and evaluations;
- Procure information, education and communication (IEC) materials (nutrition, HIV, cholera, malaria, measles, focused antenatal and newborn care etc.).

## **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (US\$ 2,400,000)**

For 2009, the overall goal is to reduce mortality and morbidity cases due to waterborne diseases triggered by the envisaged emergency in Zambia through the provision of safe water and sanitation services to up to 616,000 people (14,000 displaced persons and 602,000 affected villagers) and to 56,000 schoolchildren, focusing on children and women, through the following key activities:

- Supply emergency water for two weeks (using dowsers and bladders or emergency tanks) for 14,000 displaced people;
- Provide 1,300 emergency sanitation facilities (gender-/disability-sensitive latrines, bathing and handwashing facilities) being used at temporary shelters, i.e., schools/churches or temporary camps;
- Construct/rehabilitate wells and adequate sanitary facilities for 56,000 children in 100 schools;
- Rehabilitate and construct 1,886 wells and boreholes and install handpumps to provide safe drinking water to some 471,000 individuals in permanent and areas of return;
- Train 32 local water authority management teams and 1 central team in county/city water and sanitation assessments, strategic options, rehabilitation planning, leak detection, water testing, repair and maintenance of mini water supply systems;
- Promote hygiene education and hygiene awareness programmes in 100 schools and 2,200 local communities in order to complement existing water and sanitation services;
- Procure biological and chemical water testing at 1,886 water sources and distribute and apply chemicals for water disinfection;
- Procure and distribute Clorin (chlorine) for drinking-water treatment for 85 health centres, 100 schools as well as 88,000 households.

## **Education (US\$ 516,800)**

For 2009, the overall goal is to minimize the disruption of learning due to a potential natural disaster emergency for at least 56,000 children in 100 schools. The following interventions can be expected to be implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, education sector members and UN development partners:

- Supply basic scholastic materials, including notebooks, pencils and erasers, for 56,000 primary schoolchildren;
- Procure and distribute recreational kits and school supplies for 56,000 schoolchildren;
- Provide equipment for temporary schools/classroom structures as necessary in case of emergency;
- Facilitate capacity development and training workshops for educational officials from 37 flood-prone districts in preparedness and response;
- Train 200 teachers, with particular attention to HIV and AIDS, life skills and child protection issues.

## **Child Protection (US\$ 1,100,000)**

For 2009, the overall goal is to raise community awareness and to build their capacity to prevent, address and monitor the negative impact of violence, sexual exploitation and abuse against children and women as well as to extend the coverage of interventions to provide adequate family- and community-based care for orphaned and other vulnerable children (OVC). A total of 20,000 vulnerable households caring for children in affected districts are targeted through the following key activities:

- Strengthen the capacity of civil society and communities affected by natural disasters to monitor and address gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse, and psychosocial care in emergencies;
- Support prevention, identification, reporting, documentation, tracing and care for child exploitation and abuse;
- Support Community Welfare Assistance Committees (CWACs) in 20 districts to strengthen coping mechanisms for elderly-headed households caring for OVC and facilitate their access to basic social services; and provide psychosocial support;
- Strengthen coordination and increase inter-agency awareness on child protection priorities in emergency and humanitarian response;
- Introduce key resource and training materials as well as guidelines relating to critical child protection issues.

### **Mine Action (US\$ 150,000)**

For 2009, the overall goal is to improve mine-risk education (MRE) in 100 basic schools in suspected mine-contaminated areas. Some 50,000 children will be reached through the following key activities:

- Develop children's (pupils') MRE book to go hand in hand with the MRE Teacher's Handbook to be distributed in affected basic schools in seven of the nine provinces, reaching about 300,000 pupils;
- Support the Zambia Curriculum Development Centre to integrate MRE into school curriculum and monitor the MRE basic school course in 100 basic schools (targeting 50,000 children);
- Facilitate MRE presentations for some 50,000 children and the design and dissemination of new MRE materials (T-shirts, leaflets, posters etc.); and train 200 teachers from 100 basic schools;
- Support the Zambia Mine Action Centre (ZMAC) and the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services to provide psychosocial support and vocational training to about 200 mine/unexploded ordnance (UXO) survivors and other children with disabilities in two most affected provinces.