

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

ZAMBIA

**IMMEDIATE NEEDS FOR CHILDREN AND
WOMEN AFFECTED BY THE FLOODS**

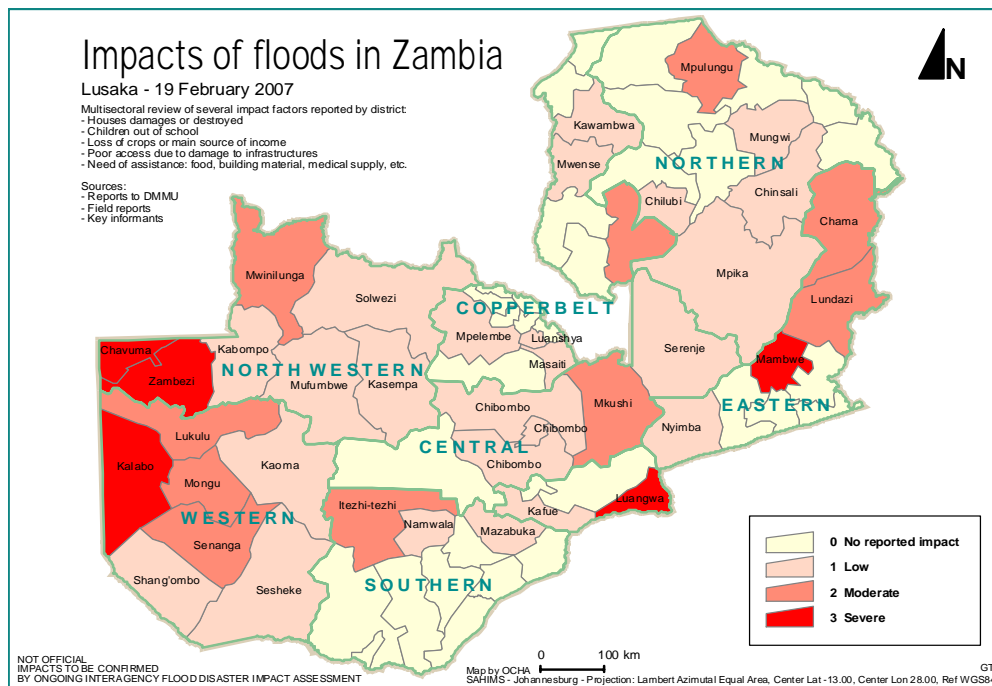


IMMEDIATE REQUEST: US\$ 1,741,915

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Zambia is one of the countries most affected by drought in Southern Africa and flooding is an uncommon occurrence in the country. However, the combination of late-arriving seasonal rainfall and early drought in October and November of 2006 combined with a period of intense rainfall in December 2006 and January and February of 2007 has wreaked an unusual level of destruction in several parts of Zambia. Water levels have risen dramatically with some parts of the country receiving a season's worth of rain in just a matter of weeks.

The result has been disastrous, and flooding has overtaken many parts of the country, with particularly heavy impacts in the North Western, Western, Eastern and Northern provinces. At the time of writing, data is still coming in, but it is increasingly evident that hundreds of thousands of people may have been displaced, their homes damaged or washed away. In addition, significant infrastructure has been damaged, including not only roads and bridges, but also latrines and water sources, schools, and health posts. Perhaps even more alarming, food crops – many of which were planted late because of the late on-set of the rains – have been submerged. This may cause a significant food shortage later in the year.



In the fifteen most affected districts, the population of children under five reaches over 300,000. All of these are potentially vulnerable to health concerns, lack of access to safe water and sanitation, and bereft of their education. Over the next few months, their situation may worsen further as they become vulnerable to food shortages caused by damage or destruction of crops in their home areas. Women and children are usually the first to be affected by contaminated water and effects thereof, like cholera. Malaria is already increasing rapidly and children and pregnant women are the most susceptible, malaria being the most common cause of child deaths in Zambia, exacerbated by malnutrition and HIV/AIDS.

The Government of Zambia, civil society and the UN System are currently working to define a full assessment of the scope of the need. In the meantime, however, work has begun to try and mitigate some of the initial impacts of the disaster, including water contamination, disease outbreaks and educational disruption.

While official figures resulting from the rapid assessments now underway, the Government of Zambia has released a preliminary figure of a minimum of 140,000 people severely affected throughout the country, but primarily in the Western, North-western and Eastern parts of the country. UNICEF is therefore targeting a minimum population of 140 000 people in this appeal.

In order to support these needs, UNICEF is calling for assistance of US\$ **1,741,915 for Phase I** in order to meet immediate emergency needs of the affected population.

UNICEF is also requesting for funds for Phase II of the emergency which will focus on reconstruction, meeting urgent health needs and food/nutrition security to mitigate the long term impact of failed crops and destroyed infrastructure. Phase II is estimated at US\$ 2,840,840. A Grand Total of UD\$ 4,592,755 is requested in the overall appeal.

UNICEF's response is part of a larger response from Zambian Government, NGO's, donors and UN. In the cluster division of labour UNICEF has been given the responsibility and lead in the UN's response for Health and Nutrition, Water and Sanitation and Education and Protection. UN agencies are working closely with the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit at the Vice Presidents Office to coordinate all efforts and assistance.

2. UNICEF'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE: ISSUES & ACTIONS

In spite of unconfirmed data still emerging from some parts of the country, UNICEF has already begun to act. In co-ordination with UN team members, government counterparts and other key partners, UNICEF has developed an initial response plan to address emergency needs in two initial phases of action:

Phase I – Immediate Response – February to May 2007

While longer-term impacts of the floods are still developing, UNICEF is meeting immediate emergency needs for affected populations. Already UNICEF has begun to transport hygiene kits (including chlorine and jerry cans for provision of clean water to affected families) and educational kits (for students unable to access their schools because of the water) to families in the hardest-hit Western and North Western part of the country. As well, emergency medications and mosquito nets are in process of delivery. These actions will continue, and intensify, with attention to not only the West, but also the beleaguered north and east of the country, where little other aid is reaching and affected populations are virtually cut-off from assistance. Key focus of this initial phase will be life saving actions to prevent diarrhoeal diseases from contamination of water sources, malaria and other diseases. At the same time, action will be taken to ensure that children have the support and equipment to continue the vital schooling that brings normalcy and hope to their lives.

Phase II – Addressing Impacts of the Flood – May to December 2007

Once flood waters begin to recede, UNICEF and partner actions will need to intensify. Disease threat will increase as currently moving waters slow and stagnate, allowing the contents of destroyed latrines to mix with local water sources, and disease carrying mosquitoes to breed. At the same time, the already constrained food security situation will worsen, as final stored food stocks are depleted, in the face of total or partial crop destruction in the hardest hit parts of the country.

Actions taken to date:

Activity	Program resources already reallocated to Emergency response
Classroom supplies for schools affected by floods - 6 Provinces	55,496.35
Classroom supplies for schools affected by floods (ply wood boards with black paint & brushes)	5,662.40
Classroom supplies for schools affected by floods - Western Province	20,742.20
Emergency health supplies	171,215.94
Measles vaccine	6,500.00
Jerry cans	888.00
Chlorine/disinfectants (175	500.00
UN Rapid assessment missions	7,928.00
Support to the Disaster management and Mitigation Unit	30,000
TOTAL TO DATE	298,932.89

To date UNICEF has reallocated US\$ 298,932.89, shown above and another US\$ 900,000, total **US\$ 1,198,932.89** to meet the needs for the emergency.

UNICEF's on-going support will focus its support on four main sectors of concern:

1. Water and Sanitation

Water and sanitation infrastructure is extremely vulnerable to flood impacts. With rising waters, latrines collapse and water sources become contaminated. In various affected districts outbreaks of diarrhea and cholera have been reported. These will increase as flood waters recede. In order to avoid an epidemic of water and sanitation related diseases, immediate action is required. UNICEF is the only implementing UN or donor in the water and sanitation sector and therefore most of the response in this sector will come from UNICEF.

General objective: Ensuring that no lives are lost due to damaged infrastructure and contaminated water sources.

Specific objectives:

- Provide immediate access to water purification and hygiene equipment to affected families and children.
- Support reconstruction or rehabilitation of latrines and other sanitation facilities in *affected areas*
- Support the rehabilitation of wells, pumps and water storage facilities in affected villages
- Provide water quality testing equipment and chemicals including chlorine for water treatment
- Disseminate information on good hygiene practice and waste disposal to affected families and communities

2. Education and Protection

General objective: Guaranteeing that affected children have safe places to grow and learn.

Specific objectives:

- Support to the selection and equipping of safe sites (child friendly spaces/environments) for establishment of temporary classes
- Provision of essential materials (e.g. school-in-a-box or a package based on that model) which provides for the needs of children and teachers in the classroom.
- Provision of construction materials for the rehabilitation of damaged school structures
- Provision of recreation equipment/materials for the psycho-social support of traumatised children.
- Building capacity of members of community welfare committees to provide psycho-social support to children and households in the affected areas

3. Health and Nutrition

There is an immediate and urgent need to mitigate the deteriorating health situation in the flooded areas. Apart from illnesses brought by contaminated water, there is also an increase of malaria, infections, measles, bubonic plague and other diseases brought on by the effects of the floods. All this is exacerbated by the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and poor nutritional status. Children and lactating mothers are the most vulnerable and worst affected by worsened health conditions and poor environment.

General objective: Working in partnership with MoH to reduce the potential impacts of the emergency on the health and well-being of the affected population.

Specific objectives:

- Assist the Ministry of Health to re-establish the health network, including referral systems, to provide essential health services, disease control and treatment, immunization and nutrition.
- Procure LLTNs, Coartem, Measles vaccine, ORS, antibiotics and Vitamin A capsules.
- Monitoring childhood malnutrition and in case of severe malnutrition provide therapeutic feeding.
- Support to Ministry of Health in ensuring that routine vaccines reach all affected areas.
- Support to the Ministry of Health in the provision and distribution of anti-malaria medication and bed-nets in all affected areas.

4. Coordination

General objective: Ensuring that there is consistent and effective coordination among all actors in the context

Key to ensuring the success of relief and recovery interventions is ensuring that there is consistent and effective coordination among all actors in the context – government and non-governmental organizations, the UN System and communities themselves. UNICEF has been designated as “cluster lead” in the areas of Water and Sanitation, Education, and Child Protection, and as co-lead in Health and Nutrition, and is committed to ensuring that this means not only effective leadership but also effective synchronization of action among all key players. To this end, coordination efforts have already begun. These include active participation – along with other members of the UN country team – in the National Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit’s Vulnerability Assessment Committee. UNICEF has supported the Rapid Assessment teams currently spread throughout the country with the lending of six staff and three vehicles as well as US\$ 30,000.

The UN country team has also developed an internal disaster management group to coordinate the UN response to the crisis. This includes regular meetings as well as three joint reconnaissance missions to assess the situation in the Western and Eastern regions of the country. UNICEF has also been working together with key government counterparts in thematic areas throughout the disaster planning and early response.

4. ESTIMATED FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR PLANNED ACTION FROM FEBRUARY TO MAY 2007

UNICEF urgently requires US\$ **1,741,915** to respond to the immediate needs of children and women affected by the floods.

SECTOR	US\$
WATER AND SANITATION	333,300
EDUCATION AND CHILD PROTECTION	549,615
HEALTH AND NUTRITION	814,000
COORDINATION	45,000
TOTAL*	1,741,915

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

Further details of the emergency programme in Zambia can be obtained from:

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