



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

**2024 EL NINO INDUCED DROUGHT DISASTER: DOMESTIC AND
INTERNATIONAL APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE, CDE DR ED
MNANGAGWA**

1.0 Preamble

Globally, climate induced hazards are on the increase and becoming more complex to manage as observed over the past decade and these include droughts, floods, cyclones, and strong winds. Drought is the most common natural hazard experienced in Zimbabwe. Historically, drought events with catastrophic impact occurred in 1991/2, 1997/8, 2004/05, 2007/8, 2012/13, and the recent 2015/2016 El Nino induced drought which was declared a SADC regional drought as most SADC countries were affected. The 2018/2019 agricultural season also performed badly due to prolonged dry spells which triggered a payout from Africa Risk Capacity Limited Sovereign Drought Insurance. These perennial droughts continue to contribute to food insecurity as well as limited access to clean and safe drinking water in both rural and urban areas, and a high incidence of water borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid. Due to the frequency of droughts caused by climate change, the Government of Zimbabwe embraced Africa Risk Capacity Sovereign Drought Insurance Policy as one of the Ex-Ante/ pre-disaster risk financing tool to complement the traditional response mechanisms. Anticipatory Action (AA) was put into practice, with support from development partners to mitigate against the impact of droughts.

Currently, Zimbabwe like most Sub-Saharan countries is in the grip of the 2023/24 El Nino-induced drought which has resulted in massive crop failure, depletion of water resources and pastures. Due to the extent of the 2023/24 El Nino-induced drought, the Government of Zimbabwe together with the Replica Partners (WFP and Start Network) will receive payouts from ARC Insurance Limited. Albeit the drought conditions, , the country has witnessed the occurrence of sporadic heavy storms, flooding, flash flooding and other trans-boundary hazards. The El Nino-induced drought together with the freak weather conditions have caused compounding humanitarian consequences on food security, nutrition, health, WASH, education, social protection, shelter, agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and cross cutting issues among others.

The Zimbabwean economy being agro-based has been largely affected notwithstanding mitigatory measures vigorously pursued by Government and partners.

Given the foregoing, His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Cde Dr E.D Mnangagwa declared a State of Disaster **in accordance with Section 27(1) of the Civil Protection Act [Chapter 10 : 06] which provides that if at any time it appears to the President that any disaster is of such a nature and extent that extraordinary measures are necessary to assist and protect the persons affected or likely to be**

affected by the disaster in any area of the country, the President may, in such a manner as he considers fit, declare that, with effect from a date specified by him, a state of disaster exists within an area or areas specified by him in the declaration. To operationalize the declaration, Statutory Instrument (SI) 55 of 2024 was instituted.

2.0 Macro-Economic Environment

The economy was projected to grow by 3.5% in 2024 anchored on the following broad assumptions:

- i. Normal to below normal 2023/24 rainfall season;
- ii. Slowdown in global economic growth and geopolitical tensions;
- iii. Declining international commodities prices;
- iv. Implementation of policies that sustain transition to mono currency by 2028; and
- v. Tight fiscal and monetary policies.

Consistent with this anticipated economic performance, the macro-fiscal framework anticipated revenue collections of ZW\$53.9 trillion (18.3% of GDP) and expenditures of ZW\$58.2 trillion (19.8% of GDP) with a resultant budget deficit of 1.5% of GDP. However, indications are that the direct and indirect impact of the El Nino induced drought is severe than anticipated with a negative impact on the overall economic growth in 2024, compromising revenue collections and increasing the expenditure levels, as well as increasing the import bill. This is being worsened by other factors such as tapering international commodities prices, inadequate power supply, as well as subdued global economic growth.

As a result, preliminary information indicates that the agriculture sector may contract by more than 17.1% compared to initial projection of 4.9%. Output in the sector will mainly be affected by lower than anticipated output in grains, especially maize, cash crops will also be affected including cotton and tobacco. The drought is also expected to jeopardize the livestock industry due to low grazing, veld fires, stock feeds and water availability. This is likely to leave a substantial number of families food insecure and without incomes.

Similarly, this phenomenon has also compromised hydroelectricity generation at Kariba Hydropower Station as a result of low levels of water inflows. The power station is projected to produce daily electricity of less than 200MW compared to an installed capacity of 1050 MW. As a result, the country is expected to import a minimum of **500 MW** to close the supply gap.

Resultantly, the drought is estimated to have an overall impact of lowering GDP growth by at least 1.5% points in 2024. This is also expected to compromise revenue collections through tobacco levy of at least 21% as a result lower than anticipated output. Additional revenues will be lost indirectly through reduced aggregate demand. On the other hand, Government expenditures are expected to increase substantially than planned through the need to import grain to mitigate against food deficit.

On the external front, increased demand for food imports is set to grow by 34% against decline in agricultural exports by 13.8% due to drought is expected to worsen the current account position to deficit from surpluses recorded in the previous years.

3.0 Introduction

The Meteorological Services Department (MSD), under the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, predicted normal to below-normal rainfall for the 2023/24 rainfall season due to the effects of El Niño global climate phenomenon. The delayed onset of the rainfall season resulted in late planting as most farmers started planting in late December following some significant rainfall across the country which also resulted in a trail of destruction to infrastructure and livelihoods. More than 80% of the country received below normal rainfall average by end of February 2024. Prolonged dry weather conditions were again experienced in November and the first half of December 2023. The country further experienced the driest month of February 2024 on record.

This has indeed affected critical sectors of the economy namely Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security, Health, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), Hydrology, Energy, Education, Protection and Environment.

Cognizant of the El Nino-induced climate phenomenon as early as June 2023, Government during the formulation of the 2024 National Budget made a conscious decision to incorporate preparedness, mitigation, response and resilience strategies.

It is critical to note that in crafting the initial appeal document, focus was placed on search, rescue and mitigation which constituted **US\$2 billion** as announced by His Excellency, the President in the declaration statement. However, in order to build resilience of communities, a further **US\$1.9 billion** was added.

4.0 Agriculture Sector

4.1 Situational Analysis

The season started late and was characterized by prolonged dry spells resulting in crop failure in most parts of the country. It is critical to note that more than 80% of the country received below normal rainfall average. In the 2023/24 summer season, a total of 1,728,897 ha was put under maize with 4% of the crop under irrigation, 26% under Pfumvudza and 70% under dry land. Ordinarily, this should have yielded 2.5 million MT enough for human food and animal feed.

This is a disturbing situation though with prospects of at least 327,667.5 MT of maize from the irrigated area. This expected harvest is may also be compromised by electricity supply shortages/challenges. Crop failure was also exacerbated by the outbreak of fall armyworm (FAW) caterpillars with the highest infestation occurring in Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Midlands, and Matabeleland South provinces.

Zimbabwe's budgeted annual consumption of maize and traditional grains is 2.2 million metric tonnes, with 1.8 million metric tonnes used for food and 400,000 metric tonnes used for stock feed. The actual human consumption is 1.4 million MT annually since 2017 according to ZIMSTAT. The Strategic Grain Reserve (SGR) has 189,568 MT of cereals being 145,604 MT maize and 43,964 MT traditional grains. A total of 744 271 MT according to the second round crop and livestock assessment is expected from the 2023/24 summer season harvest. The cereal deficit is expected to range from 350 425MT (based on 7.7 kgs per person actual consumption to 764 425MT based on planning of 10kgs per person. Government and partners will focus on closing the 764,425 MT gap through importation of grain and expanded winter cropping. For livestock where 90% of the 5.7 million herd is in communal areas, there is urgent need for provision of water and supplementary feed.

There is surplus wheat stocks of 138,905MT which can be used for the SGR after making provision of 105,800MT which is required till the next harvest in September 2024. Combining maize, traditional grains and wheat, the SGR is 356,000 MT. The winter wheat surplus, after making provision for consumption up to August 2025 of 252,000MT, is expected to be 248,900 MT. This brings the cumulative SGR to 604,000MT. However, it is noted that there is already a significant increase in cereal prices with a 20L bucket averaging \$11 while livestock prices have dropped significantly in some parts of the country that are already experiencing grain deficit at the household level. For example, in Muzarabani where pricing is sometimes determined by the buyer, goats have dropped to \$15 down from \$25 while cattle prices dropped to an average of \$200 down from an average of \$300 per beast. This results in the depletion of livelihood assets among our vulnerable communities centrally to the national aspirations of achieving Vision 2030. In view of likely impacts of the current El Nino episode, early response is required

to avert negative coping strategies by vulnerable communities in both rural and urban areas.

The food and feed shortfalls for the period April 2024 to March 2025 are projected as 589 000 to 789 819 MT for human consumption and 400 000 MT for and animal feed respectively

Zimbabwe has the comparative and competitive advantage growing wheat (Cost benefit analysis [CBA] of 1.5x) against that of maize (CBA 0.6x) or sorghum (CBA 0.7x) in winter. This makes wheat the preferred crop for winter.

There will be need to support the agricultural sector through production of stock feeds, medicinal feed and hay bailing and this will go a long way in ensuring livestock survival during the drought period. These interventions will require financial resources amounting to **US\$960,000**.

4.2 Priority Areas of Focus

The major mitigation strategies will include the new SGR concept and a wheat-based food security intervention. As of 14 March 2024, national Dam water levels were at 82% which is below 92% expected at the same time of the year, because of the low rainfall season. However, the irrigation potential in major dams stands at 210,602 hectares at 8Mega Litres per ha. This is enough water for a winter wheat-based food security intervention, considering a realized comparative advantage in wheat than maize or sorghum in winter.

In addition to wheat production the following will be priority areas of focus:

- i. National irrigation development
- ii. Mechanization development
- iii. Construction of livestock water troughs for 10 000 village Business Units
- iv. Cutting and Hay bailing
- v. Silage making
- vi. Forage development
- vii. Harvesting and proper storage of crop residues (stover, straw) at harvest time
- viii. Identification and movement of animals to relief grazing lands.
- ix. Control of veld fires in conjunction with EMA and local leadership.

4.3 Mitigation Measures and Budget

	Search and Rescue		Mitigation		Resilience	
Crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Round Crop and Livestock Assessment (CLAFa 2) • Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZIMLAC) • Village Based assessment for Food Insecure Households and Persons 	\$1 500 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Yield Index Insurance • Capacitation of farmers on post-harvest grain storage to minimise post-harvest losses • Small holder farmers in areas which have affected less by moisture stress should be given grain protectant to minimise post-harvest losses • Farmers in the low veld are encouraged to grow winter maize in their gardens • Movement of grain should be monitored by government to avoid unnecessary holding 	\$95,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pfumvudza • Agroecological matching • Irrigation Development 	\$ 120,000,000
SGR	Grain Mobilisation Reports		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grain mobilisation based on an import parity price of USD390/MT • Institution of the new SGR Concept based on a ARDA as the national food security • Premium prices for maize and traditional grains to encourage deliveries at GMB • Establishment of mobile 	\$ 119,400,000 \$ 133,300,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institution of the new SGR Concept based on a ARDA as the national food security • Premium prices for maize and traditional grains to encourage deliveries at GMB • Establishment of 	\$ 20,000,000

	Search and Rescue		Mitigation		Resilience	
			GMB depots for easy delivery of maize and traditional grains		mobile GMB depots for easy delivery of maize and traditional grains	
Wheat based Food Security Intervention for 2024	ARDAS Reports GMB Reports		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilisation of combine harvesters and driers for quick harvesting of maize crop under irrigation. • Quick verification of functionality of area reported as irrigable (especially the irrigation schemes). • Confirming adequacy of water for irrigating planned hectarage for each water source • Early procurement and a distribution of winter wheat inputs [seed, fertilizer, chemicals, fuel, tillage facilities] • Announcement of winter wheat planning price. • Blitz replanting all stakeholders' meetings in all 	\$300,537,060	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase area under irrigation • Crowd-in Private Sector Financing 	\$150,000,000

	Search and Rescue		Mitigation		Resilience	
			wheat growing districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilization of all irrigation schemes to grow wheat • Farmer payment of outstanding 2023 wheat deliveries to GMB. • Ring fencing of wheat producing clusters • Quick fix of some irrigation schemes for full functionality 			
Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Round Crop and Livestock Assessment (CLAFA 2) • Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZIMLAC) 	\$ 1 500 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Troughs • Hay Baling • Relief Grazing in protected areas • Veld Fire Management • Urea Treatment of Stover • Survival Feeding • Decentralised Livestock Marketing • Establish Feedlotting 	\$ 41,904,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock Collateralisation (insurance) • Forage and Fodder production • Silage • Dip Tank construction and Rehabilitations 	\$ 10,000,000
Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Round Crop and Livestock Assessment (CLAFA 2) 	\$ 1 500 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Fish Ponds at every VBU, SBU and YBU • Dam and Pond Stocking 	\$ 20 000 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and multiplication of indigenous fish species • Solarization of boreholes at 	

	Search and Rescue		Mitigation		Resilience	
					breeding centres • Development of Alternative feed sources	
Horticulture	• 2nd Round Crop and Livestock Assessment (CLAFA 2)	\$ 1 500 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish VBU, YBU, SBU • Distribution of 700 000 virus free vines to upscale the production of sweet potato in frost free areas. • Accelerate the distribution of vegetable packs 	\$15,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Aggregation Center • Group Marketing 	\$ 10, 000, 000
Irrigation and Water	• ZINWA Reports and DOI Reports		• Rehabilitation of Irrigation Infrastructure	\$798, 000, 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply of Water for Livestock Use, boreholes, Weirs and Dams • Develop 133, 000Ha and increase the area under irrigation • Accelerated Dam Construction • Sustainable Irrigation Management Models (Scheme Business Manager Model) 	\$150,000,000
Accelerated	ZINWA, RIDA and WASH Reports		• Drill 10,000 boreholes in 10,000 Villages	\$250, 000, 000	• Solarisation of Boreholes	\$160, 000, 000

	Search and Rescue		Mitigation		Resilience	
Presidential Rural Development Program			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish 10,000 Business Village Units. 			
Mechanisation	Mechanisation Reports		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilize additional tractors and combine harvesters under various schemes under Mechanization Development Alliance 	\$344, 000, 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanisation of Pfumvudza Mobilise Resources for two wheel tractors 	\$ 40, 000, 000

Item	Total Cost US\$	Appeal
Crops	95,000,000.00	95,000,000.00
SGR	133,300,000.00	127,866,093.23
Wheat	300,537,060.00	299,657,635.42
PDRP	250,000,000.00	244,666,666.67
Grain Mobilization	119,400,000.00	99,400,000.00
Irrigation/Water	798,000,000.00	789,339,478.20
Mechanization	344,000,000.00	343,933,341.93
Horticulture	15,000,000.00	15,000,000.00
Fisheries	20,000,000.00	20,000,000.00
Livestock	41,904,000.00	41,085,462.53
Total	2,117,141,060.00	2,075,948,677.98

4.4 The three dimensional interventions

4.4.1 Search and Rescue

The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare shall work with traditional leaders (village heads, headman and chiefs), Agricultural Extension (AGRITEX) Officers and other stakeholders in mobilising communities for targeting. To expedite the process, Graduate Enumerators have been roped in.

4.4.2 Mitigation

- The Ministry of Labour, Public Service and Social Services will engage Zimbabwe National Army, Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA), Central Mechanical and Engineering Department (CMED) and MoLAFWRD for trucks to ferry grain
- MoLAFWRD to ensure that food is available in the form of maize, wheat and traditional grains.
- MoLAFWRD to support National irrigation development programmes to increase the hectareage under irrigation as a mitigatory measure. The target is 133 000 hectares.
- MoLAFWRD to promote policies that encourage/improve access to water for irrigation for those farmers along large, underutilised water bodies such as Tokwe-Mukosi, Mutirikwi and Osborne

Dams- Support water conveyancing from established water sources to smallholder farming communities.

- MoLAFWRD to continue to fast tracking the rehabilitation and maintenance of medium and small irrigation schemes.
- MoLAFWRD to support the construction of livestock water troughs will be done for 10 000 village Business units for adequate watering. And support rehabilitation of existing and establishment of new water points for both humans and livestock.
- MoLAFWRD to facilitate Mechanization development to improve tillage, harvesting and post harvest management capacities in the sector. This will be through development of farm infrastructure, procurement of tractors, combine harvesters and the accompanying accessories.
- MoLAFWRD to provide for Livestock support programmes to ensure the survival of the current herd through provision of adequate feeds and water will include;
 - The cutting and bailing of for adequate feeds.
 - Silage making
 - Forage development programmes.
 - Improved harvesting and storage of crop residues (stover, straw) at harvest time
 - Identification and movement of animals to relief grazing lands.
 - Control of veld fires in conjunction with EMA and local leadership.
 - Support mass vaccination and deworming of livestock to enhance their chance of surviving through the drought period.
- MoLAFWRD to develop a crops and livestock climate resilience programme that will strengthen value chains for climate resilient plant and animal genetic resources. This should include funding and financing mechanisms. This will include promoting production of cereal substitute crops such as cassava, use conservation agriculture techniques and practices,
- MoLAFWRD to support and provide for the establishment/strengthening of a robust food security risk monitoring system that will facilitate early detection of potential disasters and implementation early actions in the future. Active use of technology to disseminate early warning information as season progresses.

- MoLAFWRD to develop blended financing mechanisms to support the above programmes and interventions – engage the farmer organizations, banks and business

4.4.3 Resilience

- In line with the thrust of Vision 2030 of building community assets and resilient communities, able-bodied beneficiaries will be required to undertake public works programmes that are aimed at building community infrastructure and assets, under the guidance of their traditional leaders.
- These assets will include but not limited to rehabilitation and or **construction of dip tanks, weirs**, clinics, schools, roads, gully reclamation among other works.
- Already Government works with humanitarian agencies such as United Nations Agencies such as WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, etc. These Agencies normally work with NGOs whom they provide funds for programme implementation on the ground providing services in the areas of food assistance, child protection, **water and sanitation**, resilience building, health, education etc.

5.0 Role of Higher and Tertiary Education Innovation, Science and Technology Development Institutions in Drought Mitigation

The Ministry will strengthen and expand the following drought mitigation poverty eradication programmes that are currently being implemented through the Heritage-based Education 5.0 framework. These include (1) adopt a community program for modernisation and industrialisation, (2) rural agro-innovation, aquaculture, irrigation and agro-industrialization programme (3) indigenous fruits and vegetables beneficiation and industrialisation programme (4) livestock rearing and breeding (5) drought resistant traditional crops breeding and expansion programme and (6) drought monitoring and early warning programme.

- Adopt a community program for modernisation and industrialisation:** In 2019, the Ministry of Higher Education directed HTEIs to adopt communities to enhance industrialisation and modernisation under the framework of Education 5.0. Under this programme, HTEIs developed programs with communities in the area of their economic activity such as agriculture and skills development through the ISEOP programme. The Ministry proposes that this programme be strengthened in light of the drought situation so that drought mitigatory measures are developed and strengthened.

- ii. Rural agro-innovation, aquaculture, irrigation and agro-industrialization programme:** these are programmes that support existing potential in rural communities and enhance their capacities to contribute to national development. For instance, at the Muchekeranwa dam, we established a 90 hectares irrigation scheme for the community with collaboration with Marondera University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (MUASt). We propose the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Rural Resettlement to grant us access to dams that have no irrigation schemes so that we can implement community irrigation schemes.
- iii. Indigenous fruits and vegetables beneficiation and industrialisation programme:** Through this program, HTEIs are directed to beneficiate local community endowments such as fruit and vegetables and thereby enhance job creation and industrialisation. The Ministry proposes scaling up and establish heritage based production plants across the nation.
- iv. Livestock rearing and breeding:** Under this programme, HTEIs are responsible for developing improved and novel livestock breeds suitable for Zimbabwe. Also, HTEIs are directed to develop various stock feed formulations for livestock. The Ministry requests additional financing to buy specialised equipment and consumables to expand this programme.
- v. Drought resistant traditional crops breeding and expansion programme:** HTEIs are producing drought tolerant seed varieties under this programme. Examples include the rapoko and millet improved varieties by University of Zimbabwe and traditional grain varieties by Great Zimbabwe University. The Great Zimbabwe University drought mitigation programme of the Innovation Centre for Dryland Agriculture has established 5000 traditional grains out-grower scheme in 7 districts of Masvingo Province and we are expanding to cover all the provinces of Zimbabwe.
- vi. Drought monitoring and early warning programme:** Through the Zimbabwe National Geospatial and Space Agency (ZINGSA), we can assist with surveying of irrigable land and quantification of the impact of the drought as well as monitor wetlands to determine how much they shifted. The surveying programme should be expanded across all agro-ecological regions of Zimbabwe.

Table 1: Budget Estimates

Programme	Cost (USD)
Adopt a community Program for modernisation and industrialisation	100,000.00
Rural Agro-innovation, aquaculture, irrigation, and agro-	

industrialisation programme	300,000.00
Indigenous fruits and vegetables beneficiation and industrialisation programme	160,000.00
Livestock rearing and breeding	150,000.00
Drought resistant traditional crops breeding and expansion programme	150,000.00
Drought monitoring and early warning programme	100,000.00
Total	960,000.00

6.0 FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

6.1 Situational Analysis

The year 2022/23 saw a bumper harvest in Zimbabwe of **2,5 million** tonnes of cereals. However, in the 2023 Zimbabwe Livelihood Assessment Committee report there were pockets in the country which experienced food insecurity. For 2024/25 season we are in the period of assessment and planning and the preliminary Crops, Livestock and Fisheries assessment indicated suppressed yields due to the negative effects of El Nino-induced drought.

Further the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development is completing the second round of the Crops, Livestock and Fisheries assessment before the Zimbabwe Livelihood Assessment Committee assessments which are currently underway. Therefore, the Ministry intends to target in excess of **6 million food insecure people** during the period April 2024 to March 2025.

6.2 Search and Rescue

With the Declaration, the President approved a Blitz Food Distribution Programme to ensure no one goes hungry as we wait for the Zimbabwe Livelihood Assessment Committee Assessment results. The blitz will target the most vulnerable groups who include the elderly, persons with disabilities, orphaned and child-headed households, chronically ill, among others. Beneficiary registration has since commenced using the whole of Government and whole of society approach.

The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare in conjunction with the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development is working together with all stakeholders, Chiefs, Headman and all village heads in assisting in mobilising communities for targeting. The Ministry will make use of Social Development Officers, Agricultural Advisory Officers, formerly AGRITEXs and Graduate Enumerators who are already in deployment in the various wards. They will oversee the whole process of community ranking using prescribed and already existing forms and relaying information to District offices for onward transmission to Provinces and ultimately Head office. The distribution of grain will follow after registration.

6.3 Mitigation

Distribution of grain shall be done using the existing structures through the Drought Relief Committees, at all levels, including those done by NGOs to avoid miscommunication. Each beneficiary will get **7.5kg of grain** and this will be reviewed to **8.5kg starting September 2024**.

Additionally, **pulses** and **oils** shall be added to the package in both rural and urban areas. The Zimbabwe National Army, Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (RIDA), Central Mechanical and Engineering Department (CMED) will assist in ferrying grain to vulnerable communities.

Food distribution will be for the vulnerable food poor whilst the rest of the society will be buying from the market. Millers have already been engaged to import grain for resale to the citizens. Assurance has been given by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development that food is available in the form of maize, wheat and traditional grains. For the urban areas, Government will implement the Cash for Cereal programme. The value of transfer shall be aligned to the FDMS package.

6.4 Zunde raMambo/ Isiphala seNkosi (Strategic Grain Reserve)

The President, as the national owner of the Zunde RaMambo/ Isiphala SeNkosi has directed that the facility be decentralized to chiefs in all eight rural provinces. Under this arrangement, each chief will be allocated **5 MT of grain per ward**, under their respective jurisdiction and working together with their headman they will ensure there is grain available close to the people as much as possible, to cater for all in dire need of assistance.

Government will meet all the costs of transporting grain so as not to exclude anyone who may be discriminated on the basis that they cannot contribute towards transport costs.

6.5 Resilience

In order to foster rural development, community participation is a key driver in the response to the El Nino induced drought disaster. Community participation of able bodied members will be done through public works programmes. The relevant Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies will provide technical expertise in the implementation of these projects. The social protection benefits which are grain and cash shall be distributed to those who would have participated in productive community works.

As a build back better initiative, the policy position of using Pfumvudza/Intwasa programme as a pre-qualification for getting food assistance and inputs should be upheld at the start of the 2024/2025 production season, starting September 2024.

6.6 Budget for Food Distribution- April 2024 to March 2024

The total budgetary requirements for the programme between now and March 2025 for the rural population is **USD807,695,000** as tabulated below.

	Required Units	Unit Cost (USD)	Number of Months	Total (USD)
Grain purchase \$365/tonne	6,000,000	365	12	517,830,000
Handling fees \$5/tonne	51,000	5	12	3,060,000
Empty bags	1,020,000	1.2	12	\$17,280,000
Grain transportation	1,020,000	3	12	\$43,200,000
Cooking oil (750ml/person)	6,000,000	1.5	12	108,000,000
Pulses (0.5kg)	6,000,000	1	12	72,000,000
Administration costs (Graduate interns recruitment, monitoring, grain distribution costs, fuel)	45,785,000	1	1	45,785,000
Grand Total				\$807,695,000.00

The budget above reflects the requirements to cater for grain procurement and distribution to at least six million beneficiaries for the period April 2024 to March 2025. Due to the drought, there is need to provide a complete food basket which includes oils and pulses to ensure the nutrition components are met. Therefore, estimated amount include procurement and distribution of oils and pulses at 750ml of cooking oil and 500g of pulses per person per month.

Preliminary numbers from the urban livelihood assessment, indicate that 1,732,770 million people (433,193 households) will be food insecure for the said period. Accordingly, **US\$103,966,000** will be required to support the food insecure urban populace. Interventions will be through cash transfers of US\$20 per household in the urban areas.

6.7 Budget Gap Analysis

The 2024 Budget had planned to feed 2,7 million beneficiaries to March 2024. With the advent of El Nino, there is therefore need for additional resources to cater for more beneficiaries for an extended period to ensure no one goes hungry in the country. The funding gap stands at **US\$895,161,000** for the period April 2024 to March 2025 as indicated in the table below.

Area of intervention	Required Budget (USD)	2024 Budget Allocation (USD)	Funding Gap (USD)
Grain procurement and distribution to rural populace	707,695,000	16,500,000	791,195,000
Cash transfers to urban populace	103,966,000	0	103,966,000
Total	811,661,000	16,500,000	895,161,000

7.0 Protection Sector

The El Nino-induced drought and the prevailing economic situation have increased the vulnerability of women and girls to protection risks. Children will face multiple vulnerabilities including dropping out of school and reduced parental care as parents concentrate more on food security. Migration of parents in search of livelihoods often results in abandonment of dependants. Cases of child labour will increase as children take up paying jobs to complement the family food basket.

During drought, there is an increased likelihood of child marriages and exposure to gender-based violence. In addition, limited access to water affects the menstrual hygiene management (MHM) of girls, reducing their self-esteem at school, sometimes forcing them to miss school during the menstrual cycle. Owing to long distances they have to navigate to fetch water, the risk of abuse and sexual violence is also increased. The risk of exposure to domestic violence and intimate partner violence are also expected to increase as a consequence of heightened family tensions caused by crop damages and income losses. It is evident that there is a need to strengthen the integration of protection in all sectors in order to effectively address protection risks.

As enunciated by His Excellency, the President, targeted programmes and strategies should endeavor to leave no one and no place behind particularly special interest groups such as the women, children, youths, persons with disabilities, older persons and the chronically ill. Issues of gender based violence (GBV), drugs and substance abuse and sexual exploitation, harassment and abuse should be mainstreamed in all interventions.

7.1 Child Protection Section Emergency Response Plan

The child protection response plan is premised on the understanding that children are most vulnerable to natural and human induced disasters, particularly drought. Due to their physical and psychosocial vulnerabilities, disruption of services essential for their development, their high dependency on parents and other caregivers and limited capacity to advocate for their rights will be severely impacted.

An increase in the levels of violence against children, emotional stress, intimate partner violence and child labour are some of the observed cases noted in drought affected districts. These numbers are expected to increase as food insecurity increases. Inevitably this will negatively affect mental health of parents and caregivers contributing to the risk of poor parenting that may lead to violence at household level.

Instances of child neglect are also expected as parents leave their children in search of greener pastures in neighbouring provinces or countries. A multi-sectoral approach will be used to provide child protection services in the form of search and rescue, mitigation and resilience to children and families in drought affected areas to ensure protection of children from all forms of violence, exploitation, and abuse as outlined below.

7.1.1 Search and Rescue

The child protection sector will intensify early identification of children at risk of abuse, exploitation and family separation through use of toll-free lines and community surveillance by community structures, particularly CCWs. These will assist in identifying child survivors of sexual abuse, children purported or pledged to be married, child labour cases, children on the move, children without parental care and school drop outs.

In addition, priority will be given to children in difficult circumstances living in residential child care facilities and foster care, including children with disabilities, and children living and working on the streets who may be at risk of being excluded in social assistance programmes.

7.1.2 Mitigation

To mitigate the aforesaid, plans are in place to ensure provision of specialist child protection services for children who may be exposed to any form of violence and the removal of children from harm to places of safety where need arises. Additionally, Community child protection structures, i.e. Child Protection Committees and Community Child Care Workers will be activated to ensure timely response to children at risk through early identification and referrals to appropriate service providers.

These community-based mechanisms will be key in mitigating the risk of gender based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse of children. This will be done through strengthening the child protection referral pathway through the National Case Management System mainly at district level including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support and layering of care and protection services in the provision of emergency social protection (grain distribution, cash transfers and livelihoods).

To reduce exposure of children to risks to separation from their families, exposure to violence, exploitation, child smuggling, child trafficking and child labour, identified children will be linked to social assistance programmes such as BEAM, HSCT, FDMS among other programmes. Further, early intervention and removal of at-risk children pledged or purported to be married will be spotlighted.

In terms of education, there is likelihood of increase in the rate of children who drop out of school as a negative coping mechanism employed by vulnerable households, affecting especially the adolescent girls to ensure school retention. The Basic Education Assistance Module (BEAM) will ensure no child drops out of school and the current reach of 1.5 million will be reviewed upwards to cover all children in need of education assistance.

Children in alternative care i.e. residential child care facilities and foster care will be prioritised and government will ensure timely payment of per capita grants. In addition, districts will routinely monitor their food situation and respond to distress calls. This will be done to prevent food insecurity in children's homes and foster care. Further the current emergency situation is likely to cause an increase in the number of children living and working on the streets, hence Government will scale up identification, documentation, tracing and reunification support services.

To strengthen social service workforce at sub-national level, plans are underway to increase workforce in worst affected districts guided by routine case load and trend analysis. This would entail conducting refresher trainings with frontline workers on child protection in emergencies and where necessary secondment of social work graduate interns to augment staff capacity in worst affected districts.

Working in collaboration with communities and schools, Government will conduct trainings on early warning systems to detect at risk children. In addition, Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE) structures will be activated and ensure mainstreaming of child protection in other sectoral coordination mechanisms.

7.1.3 Resilience

Given the risk of child rights violations in drought affected areas, awareness campaigns will be conducted to promote children's agency and empower children with information on children's rights to enable safe and confidential reporting during emergencies. Awareness campaigns are an integral element of child protection as it provides a platform to disseminate critical information in order to prevent child abuse in all its forms. Children will also be sensitised on reporting channels and grievance handling procedures in case of abuse. Further, promotion of children's right to participation helps to prevent all forms of violence against children.

In a bid to prevent child protection violations, government will scale up positive parenting initiatives in worst affected districts to ensure the best outcomes for children within a family setting as well as to strengthen parental supervision and support within the household. Positive parenting is a protective factor to prevent child offending, drug and substance abuse, malnutrition and poor school performance among others. Further, families,

communities and schools will be capacitated with early warning systems to detect at risk children and refer them to relevant agencies.

7.1.4 Gap Analysis

In order to effectively implement the above interventions, a total of US\$205,200,000 will be required. The amount will mainly cater for children fees and increase in child protection activities as indicated below.

Area of intervention	Required Budget (USD)	2024 Budget Allocation (USD)	Funding Gap (USD)
BEAM to reach 1.5 million children (Projected 2 million)	190,200,000	120,300,000	69,900,000
Child Protection	13,300,000	3,330,000	9,970,000
Children on the Streets	1,700,000	1,166,600	533,000
	205,200,000	124,796,600	80,403,000

Additional resources amounting to **US\$80,403,000** will be required to close the gap.

7.2 Gender Based Violence

Search and Rescue (SAR) teams should receive specialized training on identifying and responding to GBV incidents, including recognizing the signs of abuse and providing appropriate support and referral pathways. Protocols should be developed to ensure a survivor-centered approach, prioritizing the safety, confidentiality, and empowerment of GBV survivors.

7.2.1 Collaboration with GBV Service Providers:

SAR teams should establish strong partnerships with local GBV service providers, such as women's shelters, crisis hotlines, and counselling services.

This collaboration ensures that GBV survivors can be immediately connected to the appropriate support and resources during the rescue and recovery process.

7.2.2 Dedicated GBV-Focused Rescue Teams:

In high-risk disaster areas, the deployment of specialized GBV-focused SAR teams can be beneficial.

These teams should include members with expertise in GBV, social work, and trauma-informed care, ensuring a comprehensive and sensitive response.

7.2.3 Safe Spaces and Referral Pathways:

Dedicated safe spaces and temporary shelters should be established within disaster response facilities to provide a secure environment for GBV survivors.

Clear referral pathways should be developed to connect survivors with longer-term support services, such as legal assistance, medical care, and psychosocial support.

7.2.4 Community Engagement and Awareness:

Engaging with local communities, particularly women's groups and civil society organizations, can help raise awareness about GBV risks and available support services during disasters.

This community-based approach can empower survivors to come forward and access the necessary assistance.

By integrating these GBV-sensitive practices into SAR operations, disaster response teams can better protect and support the specific needs of GBV

7.2.4.1 Mitigation

Mitigating gender-based violence (GBV) in humanitarian situations as drought situations is a critical issue that requires comprehensive strategies to protect vulnerable populations, particularly women and girls. Some key approaches we intend to explore in mitigating GBV are:

- i. **Prevention:** Establishing preventive measures is crucial. This includes promoting gender equality, challenging harmful social norms, and implementing community-based programs to educate and engage all members of society. Awareness raising through various means like road shows, community engagements at food distribution points, water collection points and printing of IEC material.
- ii. **Response Services:** Providing survivors with access to comprehensive response services is essential. This includes psychosocial support, individual case management, safe shelter and clinical health services.
- iii. **Risk Mitigation across sectors:** Integrating GBV risk mitigation into other humanitarian sectors, such as water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, and shelter, can help reduce vulnerabilities. For example, ensuring that facilities are safe and accessible for women and girls can prevent gender based violence.
- iv. **Empowerment Opportunities:** Creating safe spaces for women and girls, distributing dignity kits, and conducting community safety audits and safety planning are ways to empower them and build resilience.

- v. **Information Access:** Promoting access to information for women and girls helps them know their rights and the services available to them, which is vital for their protection and empowerment.
- vi. **Legal and Policy Frameworks:** Strengthening implementation of legal and policy frameworks to protect against GBV and ensure justice for survivors is another important aspect of mitigation, especially fast tracking and resolution of GBV cases (specialised courts for a specified period).
- vii. **Coordination and Collaboration:** Working in coordination with other Government departments, local authorities, NGOs, and international organizations to enhance the effectiveness of all our GBV mitigation efforts.

7.2.4.2 Resilience Building

Resilience building for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in disaster situations is crucial for their recovery and well-being. Strategies that we propose are;

- i. **Empowerment Programs:** Offer empowerment programs that focus on building survivors' self-reliance, self-esteem, assertiveness, and decision-making skills. These programs can include vocational training, education initiatives, and leadership development opportunities.
- ii. **Livelihood Support:** Provide economic support to survivors to help them regain financial independence and stability. This can include job placement services, microfinance initiatives, and support for income-generating activities.
- iii. **Psychosocial Support:**
Provide comprehensive psychosocial support to address the emotional and mental health needs of survivors. This can include individual and group counselling, trauma-informed care, and stress management techniques.
- iv. **Safe Spaces:** Establish safe and confidential spaces where survivors can access support services, counseling, and resources without fear of judgment or further harm. These spaces can be physical shelters, community centers, or virtual support groups.
- v. **Access to Healthcare:** Ensure survivors have access to medical care, including sexual and reproductive health services, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, and

- vi. **Community Engagement:** Engage the community in efforts to prevent and respond to GBV. This can involve awareness-raising campaigns, training sessions on gender equality and human rights, and community-led initiatives to challenge harmful gender norms.
- vii. **Legal Support:** Ensure access to legal support for survivors seeking justice and protection. This may involve providing information about legal rights, facilitating access to legal aid services, and advocating for the enforcement of laws against GBV.
- viii. **Healthcare Services:** Ensure access to comprehensive healthcare services, including sexual and reproductive health services, HIV testing and treatment, and access to emergency contraception and post-exposure prophylaxis.
- ix. **Cultural Sensitivity:** Ensure that all interventions are culturally sensitive and respectful of survivors.

7.2.4.3 Response Strategy

Protection must be addressed as both a stand-alone and a cross-cutting issue. The sector will ensure protection services are available for vulnerable women, children and adolescents, including welfare, justice and security-related services. In alignment with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) centrality of protection policy and the "leaving no one behind" principle from the 2030 agenda, all partners engaged in drought response bear the responsibility of guaranteeing that their actions do not exacerbate the vulnerability of communities to risks such as violence, insecurity, extortion, and exploitation. Activities will be structured to benefit all communities, including local communities, displaced populations, returnees, and refugees, addressing their unique needs and considering potential barriers related to gender, age, disability, or social affiliations. Key activities include:

- i. Establish timely GBV mitigation child-focused strategies and community-based mechanisms to reduce exposure for most-at-risk women, girls and boys
- ii. Ensure availability and accessibility of quality comprehensive GBV survivors' multi-sectoral services
- iii. Scale up ongoing capacity-building efforts for GBV
- iv. Mainstream child protection into emergency response through strengthened coordination between District Child Protection Committees (CPCs) and other sectors coordination mechanisms
- v. Strengthen the capacity of other actors to integrate GBV interventions into humanitarian action including on the establishment of prevention, mitigation and community-based GBV complaints mechanisms

- vi. Strengthen prevention of sexual exploitation abuse (PSEA) capacity among all humanitarian actors
- vii. Enhance protection coordination at national and sub-national levels, including effective monitoring, response and prevention of GBV, in order to inform targeted programming and timely response
- viii. Strengthen the child protection cases identification and referral pathway and links through the National Case Management mainly at district levels including mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS).

7.2.4.4 Gap Analysis GBV (USD7, 115,000)

Activity	Budget Requirement (USD)	Available funding and source (USD)	Resource Gap (USD)
Enhance protection coordination at national, provincial and district levels, including effective monitoring, response and prevention of GBV, in order to inform targeted programming and timely response	500 000	10 000 (GoZ)	450 000
Establish timely GBV mitigation strategies, including distribution of dignity kits, to reduce exposure for most-at-risk women and girls	800 000	-	800 000
Ensure availability and accessibility of quality comprehensive GBV survivors' multi-sectoral services such as health, psychosocial, security and legal support, through the establishment/strengthening of referral pathways and the dissemination of life-saving information on available services in drought-affected communities	2 100 000	-	2 100 000
Livelihoods projects for resilience building	2 000 000	-	2 000 000
Scale up ongoing capacity-building efforts for GBV sub-sector specialized actors on the application of GBV in Emergencies Minimum standards	300 000	-	300 000
Strengthen the capacity of Humanitarian sectors' actors (Such as Food security, Health, WASH, Nutrition, Education, Shelter and CCCM) to integrate	1 000 000	-	1 000 000

GBV interventions into humanitarian action, including on the establishment of prevention, mitigation and community-based GBV complaints mechanisms			
Awareness raising on GBV for prevention through various community engagements, IEC materials, roadshows etc	200 000	-	200 000
Strengthen PSEA capacity among all humanitarian actors	800 000	535 000 CERF and HRF	265 000
			7 115 000

7.2.5 Disability

The disability constituency has diverse needs that are unique and the drought will greatly affect them hence the need for disaster preparedness, contingency planning and post disaster management. In order to protect vulnerable persons with disabilities, the following activities shall be carried out:

7.2.5.1 Search and rescue

At this stage, persons with disabilities shall be profiled and needs assessment will be conducted. This will also enable a database to be put in a place and pave way for sound interventions. Traditional leaders, chiefs, headman and other community structures shall be used to identify persons with disabilities in their respective communities. Additionally, referrals and walk ins shall be another source of identification of persons with disabilities.

7.2.5.2 Mitigation

- i. In mitigating the effects of El Nino, social safety nets to persons with disabilities shall be strengthened these include vocational training, assistive technologies, empowerment loans, per capita grants in forty-five residential care institutions shall be increased across the country.
- ii. Persons with disabilities must be active participants and be included in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) management.
- iii. Disability inclusive budgeting, which includes emergency disasters must be a priority.
- iv. Awareness raising through community outreach programs on disability and emergency response and also raising awareness on Disability inclusive Emergency to the public.
- v. Persons with disabilities will be conscientized of the various programs that will help them through this El Nino situation, like the Vocational

training, provision of assistive devices, beam, public assistance programmes etc.

- vi. Capacity building through Training of persons with disabilities to be resource persons for the topic disability and disaster management and through Disaster Risk Reduction planning.
- vii. Building partnerships with non-governmental organisations and mobilise more resources for the welfare and well-being of persons with disabilities.

7.2.5.3 Resilience

- i. Enhance economic initiatives through vocational training, provision of assistive technologies, per capita grants and empowerment loans.
- ii. Mobilising of resources through partners and support them with income generating projects capital for projects like garden, poultry, cattle, goats, piggery, green house e.t.c.

7.2.5.4 Budget

In 2024, a budget of USD\$7.6 million targeting a total of 7 300 persons with disabilities, because of the disaster situation the number of persons with disabilities is likely to increase for persons with disabilities who receive social protection assistance. Given the anticipates an increase in vulnerable persons with disabilities seeking assistance, as additional US\$1.5 million will be required to facilitate provision of rights-based services to persons with disabilities.

7.3 Drug and Substance Abuse

7.3.1 Search and Rescue

With the El Nino-induced drought, there is high risk of individuals resorting to negative coping mechanisms to cope with hunger. It has been noted that there are some drugs and substances, which when one takes can go for days without eating any food. Early identification will thus be done through the Religious and Traditional leaders, Community leaders, Case Care Workers (CCWs), families/households, toll free lines, walk-ins, Government Extension Workers and partners.

7.3.2 Funding Gap

The drug and substance abuse mandate is driven by seven pillars housed in different Ministries, all working in their expert areas to fight drug and substance abuse. Accordingly, the table below indicates the requirement for all the pillars to effectively combat the anticipated increase in the abuse of drugs and substances: -

Area of intervention	Required Budget	2024 Budget Allocation	Funding Gap
Drug and Substance Abuse, awareness campaigns, provision of psycho-social support, detoxification and rehabilitation of survivors, detecting and cutting the supply chain of drug traffickers.	10,000,000	3,352,000	6,648,000

7.3.3 Mitigation

In order to assist the identified, a multi-sectoral approach will be used to provide mental health and psychosocial support (PSS) to affected individuals and families by drugs and substances use. Government will increase the number of psycho-social support centres with the aim of providing PSS to individuals and families at risk and affected by drugs and substances.

Establishment of community-based support groups where positive parenting issues and community dialogues activities will be discussed and conducted. Social functioning of the survivors of drug and substance will be restored by reintegrating them back into the society and conducting regular follow ups to prevent relapses.

Drug and substance abuse survivors will be linked with other Social Protection services such as food assistance, cash transfers, public works programs, sustainable livelihoods, empowerment programs, skills training and counselling among others.

7.3.4 Resilience

In a bid to restore human worthy, dignity and functionality affected individuals and families will participate in family and community development programs. These programs will include but not limited to livelihoods projects, Vocational Training Skills, Education and Rehabilitation and Psycho-Social Support services.

7.3.5 Refugees

The regional food insecurity and nutrition situation in light of erratic rains caused by El Nino is impacting negatively on the forcibly displaced and their host communities who supplement their food rations from their agricultural activities. Water sources are threatened, and their livelihoods have been decimated, and the rising prices are eroding the purchasing power of their monthly entitlements. These populations are already suffering a dramatic reduction in humanitarian assistance due to funding shortfalls coupled with the global economic crisis.

7.4 Search and Rescue

A total of 16,183 refugees and asylum seekers at Tongogara Refugee Settlement will be assisted. There is likely to be an increase in the influx of new arrivals as conflicts would escalate due to the shortage of resources (mainly food) in the countries of refugee origin given that El Nino affected the whole region. The implications of the drought are already visible as during the March cash and in-kind distribution at the settlement there were reports of increased presence of people from the host community looking for jobs to be paid using the in-kind benefit that the forcibly displaced community receives.

7.4.1 Mitigation

Immediate needs include the provision of lifesaving services including nutrition, water and sanitation, healthcare, as well as responding to protection impacts in the refugee settlement. There will be provision of cash grants to refugees who are in micro enterprises and the disbursement of cash into selected households through cash for work activities, provide agricultural inputs (maize and sugar beans) to support the cycles of production post drought. Government will continue to contribute towards food assistance through the provision of maize, which is milled and packaged by the World Food Programme for distribution to the refugee community.

Nutrition supplement will be provided for people with special needs such as the elderly, new arrivals and the chronically ill and provide wet feeding for under 5's. Water systems maintenance and expansion of water networks in the Tongogara Refugee Settlement (TRS) community and schools-mobile emergency water supply and water storage will be done. Provide shelter for newly arrived refugees, as well as repair and refurbishment kits to households

7.4.2 Resilience

Projects already being implemented at the Settlement will be enhanced and these include soap making project, poultry project, fisheries, piggery, the irrigation scheme amongst others. Therefore, there is need to increase the beneficiaries and to diversify the projects extending to goat farming which has a ready market.

There will be introduction of high value crop like chillis apart from the maize and sugar beans that are being grown in the of land provided by Government for income generating projects for households. These livelihoods projects will assist in food production, thereby enhancing food security.

Approximately **US\$730,000** is required to respond to the immediate needs and expansion of livelihood projects to build on resilience.

8.0 Health Sector

8.1 Situation Overview

The poor rains received during 2023/24 season contributed to intermittent water shortages with impacts felt across the country leading to the spread of water borne diseases cholera cases. Droughts and their associated risk factors are known to increase the likelihood of malnutrition, poor hygiene practices, increase infectious disease outbreaks, malaria, anthrax and catalyze diarrheal outbreaks and amid an ongoing cholera outbreak in the country the risks can only be heightened. Poor sanitation coverage, compounded with the current cholera outbreak will in turn have cascading negative implications on food and nutrition security if extraordinary measures are not taken.

Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach, including investments in healthcare service delivery systems, infrastructure, strengthening disease surveillance and response systems, improving access to essential medicines and vaccines, promoting community education and awareness, and addressing underlying socio-economic determinants of health such as poverty and inequality. Collaborative efforts between Government agencies, healthcare providers, non-governmental organizations, and international partners are essential to effectively combating malaria, cholera, anthrax, and other public health threats in Zimbabwe.

In response to the health impacts of El Niño, efforts are made to strengthen disease surveillance and response systems in all districts to detect and respond promptly to outbreaks of infectious diseases, such as cholera and malaria, which may escalate during periods of climatic stress. Interventions in the health sector must effectively reach those most in need, mitigate the health impacts of El Niño, and build resilience within communities to better cope with future climate-related health challenges. Collaboration with local health authorities, community leaders, religious organizations and humanitarian organizations is crucial to ensure the success and sustainability of these interventions.

8.2 Strategies

- i. Strengthening surveillance to monitor and detect outbreaks of cholera, acute watery diarrhea and vaccine-preventable diseases. Early detection enables timely interventions to prevent further spread and mitigate the impact on public health, an extra budget of **US\$ 10m** is required.
- ii. Prepositioning essential medicines and supplies by prepositioning essential medicines and medical supplies at national and sub national levels, Zimbabwe ensures rapid access to life-saving medications and equipment during emergencies. This proactive

approach enhances response efficiency and effectiveness. A number related health challenges are expected and an extra budget of **US\$26m** is needed.

- iii. Capacitation of Health Workers by continuous training in disease surveillance is vital. This investment enhances their ability to detect, report and respond promptly to health threats, strengthening the overall resilience of the health system, an extra budget of **US\$3m** is required.
- iv. Capacity Building of Rapid Response Teams by strengthening Rapid Response Teams, particularly at district and health facility levels is essential for coordinated responses to health emergencies. This includes outbreak investigations, case management and community engagement efforts, a budget of **US\$5m** is required.
- v. Support for gender-based violence (GBV) Survivors by addressing the clinical needs of survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) requires specialized training, equipment and referral pathways. Investing in this area improves the quality of care and strengthens the overall response to GBV-related health crises. A budget of **US\$4m** is required
- vi. Provision of Reproductive Health Kits: Ensuring access to emergency reproductive health kits, including contraceptives, safeguards the reproductive health and rights of women and girls during emergencies. This reduces the risk of unintended pregnancies and maternal mortality. An extra budget of **US\$7m** is required.
- vii. Provision of lifesaving integrated sexual reproductive health interventions focused on the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) including strengthening access to basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care, clinical management of GBV, preventing sexually transmitted infections (STI/HIV) and family planning services to reduce maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality. An extra budget of **US\$9 m** is required.
- viii. It is important to note that most of the communicable diseases are transmitted through WASH related diseases. Sanitation and water quality monitoring have not been funded and this increases our susceptibility to further disease outbreaks. The requirements for this have been put under WASH.

The Extra budget for the health sector minus WASH needs is **US\$64m**.

9.0 Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

9.1 Situational Analysis

Increased reports of safe water sources drying up are noted in rural areas as what was experienced during the 2015/2016 El Niño which also depleted groundwater sources, causing lower yields from boreholes and inducing severe safe water shortages and forcing people to rely on unsafe water sources for drinking and domestic use.

As the country moves towards the end of the rainfall season, the water security situation continues to deteriorate. The national dam storage levels reduced by 0.4% from 79.9% on the 4th of April 2024 to 79.5% as at 11 April 2024. Last week the levels declined by 0.8% (i.e. twice the decrease) recorded this week signifying the impact of the rains received. The Kariba Lake levels have also been steadily decreasing, (13.6% usable storage as of the 11th of April 2024) due to low inflow and reduced rainfall, with a probability of affecting hydroelectricity generation and inevitably affecting all water treatment plants in the country, thereby reducing water production and transmission to communities. Out of a total of 42,863 boreholes, 5 636 boreholes are broken down whilst 1 688 are reported dry.. A significant number of towns have now been reported to have water supply sufficient for the next 12 months.

Droughts and their associated risk factors are known to increase the likelihood of poor hygiene practices, an increase in infectious disease outbreaks, amid ongoing cholera outbreak. Furthermore, about 35% of households have no access to basic water services, with 45% of rural households travelling more than 500m to fetch water (ZIMLAC, 2023).

The national sanitation coverage is standing at 39,9% and this is a red flag indicator to the frequent occurrence of diarrhoeal diseases like cholera and typhoid. To combat this, the Government will prioritise the demand led sanitation approach to arrest cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases.

9.2 Search and rescue

- i. The Government has prioritised the water scarce Regions 4 & 5 for safe water supply due to the nature of their climate patterns.
- ii. The WASH sector has also stratified districts into tiers 1-4 based on four criteria namely: water security severity, diarrheal severity; open defecation severity and food & nutrition severity; with tiers 3&4 being the worst hit. 29 districts fall in this category tier 3 & 4.
- iii. Cholera hotspots especially in water scarce and low sanitation coverage areas will also be prioritised for response.

- iv. Utilisation of MSD reports that will show areas that have been affected severely by El Nino.
- v. Areas with water supply below 12 months water supply and those with outbreaks of WASH related diseases.

9.3 Mitigation Strategy

- i. Drilling and equipping of 4000 boreholes prioritising areas with water supply less than 12 months and without alternative sources of water other than underground water.
- ii. Strengthening WASH sector coordination structures at national and sub-national level, with links to Health and Nutrition coordination arrangements and Department of Civil Protection on critical inter-sectoral issues.
- iii. Providing WASH-related hygiene kits to drought-affected districts focusing on vulnerable families and households with inadequate access to safe water and especially to those with high malnutrition rates in the targeted areas.
- iv. Providing safe water supply to communities, health facilities and schools facing water insecurity due to drought in affected districts through rehabilitation of existing water systems and construction of new water systems including climate resilient multi-purpose solar-powered piped water systems which enable safe drinking and domestic water as well as water for livestock and gardens.
- v. Establishing and strengthening effective early warning, surveillance and monitoring systems to understand the impacts of drought on household access to safe drinking water in rural and urban areas
- vi. Increasing storage capacity at community and institution level, especially for urban areas where water supply is intermittent
- vii. Promoting safe hygiene and sanitation practices and water conservation through established community health and hygiene mechanisms as well as mass media
- viii. Improving use of basic sanitation services for households and institutions in affected districts.
- ix. Education sector to cooperate with WASH sector to scale up safe water access at schools

9.4 Building resilience

- i. Investment in Early Warning Systems, Anticipatory Action and risk informed approaches
- ii. Full operationalisation of the Rural WASH Information Management System (RWIMS). Strengthening Community Based Management approach
- iii. Village pump minder and latrine builder training and equipping
- iv. Formulation and reviving of Community health-clubs, School health clubs, water point management committees, Sanitation Action Groups

and training in Sanitation focused Participatory Health and Hygiene Education (PHHE) training for positive hygiene behaviours and the elimination of open defecation.

- v. Training of cholera rapid response teams and prepositioning of hygiene kits in cholera hotspots
- vi. Equipping and training of district personnel on water quality monitoring.
- vii. Construction of solar piped water systems.
- viii. Training on operation and maintenance of solar piped water schemes
- ix. Ground water monitoring and creation of groundwater monitoring database.

9.5 Gap analysis

- i. Lack of strong engagement and involvement of private sector particularly in rural districts to support the continued Operations and Maintenance of WASH infrastructure.
- ii. The absence of support towards capacity building of the community structures affects the overall drive towards resilience building, given that Community-Based Management (CBM) approach plays a pivotal role in the maintenance of WASH infrastructures.
- iii. Risk-informed approaches are required for the protection of water supply sources from climate change, over-abstraction and general wear and tear of infrastructure
- iv. Under-budgeting with regards to the value for borehole drilling and equipping. Water quality monitoring plays an important role in the prevention of diarrheal infections and chemical poisoning and reactions.
- v. Inadequate funding to complete Gwayi-Shangaan and Kunzvi Dams that are earmarked to improve Bulawayo and Harare water supplies.
- vi. Inadequate funding for rehabilitation of water supply stations, wastewater treatment and water treatment chemicals.
- vii. The total number of people in need of WASH interventions is estimated at 7 million people, including the elderly, children under 5 years and those with disabilities who have been flagged to be food and water insecure.

9.6 Required Budget

Required Budget

Activities	Required (US\$)	Responsibility
Drilling and equipping of 4,430 boreholes	44,268,666.67	ZINWA, RIDA

Borehole Rehabilitation (5000)	15,000,000.00	RIDA
Major community piped water schemes (120)	3,000,000.00	RIDA
Mini Community piped water schemes (320)	2,880,000.00	ZINWA, RIDA
Institutional Water Supply Mini PWS (9000)	81,000,000.00	RIDA
Rehabilitation of PWS (350)	19,250,000.00	RIDA, ZINWA
Water quality monitoring kits and consumables (1620)	25,111,050.00	MoHCC
CBM trainings (VPM training 4860, 1620 toolkits)	1,400,000.00	NWASHP, RIDA
Solar technical training for subnational structures	172,800.00	RIDA, NWASHP
Demand Led Sanitation- SAfPHHE, Community triggering (31000 villages), SAG/CHC formation & training (31000), latrine builder training & equipping (62000), training of school health teachers (1550), latrine construction (700000), training of 1800 extension workers	89,263,240.00	MoHCC, MoPSE, NWASHP
Rural WASH Information Management System	3,847,192.23.00	NWASHP
Cholera response interventions in hotspots	5,000,000.00	MoHCC,
Coordination of WASH Sector Response	2,577,894.00	NWASHP
Urban Water Supply Projects		
1. Completion of Kunzvi dam, pipeline and treatment plant	160,000,000.00	MLAFWRD/ZINWA
2. Gwayi-Shangaan Dam, Pipeline, Pump station, water treatment plant	84,408,000.00	
3. Harare East Water Augmentation project (Muchekeranwa pipeline)	19,100,000.00	MLAFWRD/ZINWA

4. Harare Water Supply Projects (water treatment chemicals, rehabilitation of Morton Jaffray and Prince Edward water works, rehabilitation of transmission pumps at Morton Jaffray and Letombo, replacement of pipes, meters, valves and PRVs in the distribution network)	13,279,523.49	City of Harare
5. Bulawayo Water Supply projects	15,000,000.00	City of Bulawayo
6. Urban Water Supply projects (30 towns)	150,000,000.00	Urban Local Authorities
Total	681,389,767.14	

9.7 Budgets for 2024

PSIP Budget	Amount ZWL	Amount USD
RIDA	\$29,338,000,000.00	\$5,535,471.70
WASH	\$26,819,359,200.00	\$4,758,756.36
Total		\$10,294,228.06

10.0 Education Sector

10.1 Situation overview

Government is committed to ensure achievement of SDG4 which aims at ***inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all*** through various programmes which include the BEAM and School Feeding Programme, among others. A school meals indicator has since been added to SDG4, hence this appeal.

A total of 90 576MT of maize grain is required to provide at least one hot balanced school meal per pupil from ECD A to Upper Secondary level at the 100grammes per infant pupil per day and 150grammes per junior and secondary pupil per day. The school population to benefit under the School Feeding Programme is based on the 2023 Education Management Information System (EMIS) preliminary figures highlighted below :-

Infant - 1 527 270

Junior - 2 098 089

Secondary - 1 116 838

The number of school days from May 2024 to March 2025 is 191 days.

10.2 Grain Requirements

Level	Enrolment	No. of days	Grain Requirements MT	Amount
Infant	1 527 270	191	29 171	\$ 10,647,362.81
Junior	2 098 089	191	40 073	\$ 14,626,827.46
Secondary	1 116 838	191	21 332	\$ 7,786,036.12
Total	4 742 197		90 576	\$ 33,060,226.39

10.3 Non Carbohydrate Items

Relish	Enrolment	No. of Days	Requirement	Amount Required
Beans/pulses	4 722 197	191	18 039 MT	\$ 225,484.91
Cooking oil	4 722 197	191	5 246 litres	\$ 594,996.82
Fuel	300 000 litres	3 terms	1.7 per litre	\$ 510,000.00
Total				\$ 1,330,481.73
Grand Total				\$ 34,390,708.11

10.4 Disability Inclusivity

In line with the inclusive education thrust, the majority of pupils with disabilities attend mainstream schools and the above cited statistics also include all pupils. Day scholars attending special schools are covered in the total figures as tabulated above.

10.5 Mitigatory Strategy

- i. Climate Smart Agriculture and clean energy sources as alternative to avoid sole reliance on firewood.
- ii. School orchard with drip irrigation, where necessary, so that there is fruit and other agroforestry products for diversified food in schools.
- iii. Provincial and District Development Councils to include interventions to reduce the proportion of school-aged children who are not attending school.
- iv. Training of food handlers on menu planning to avoid wastage of food and the hygiene handling of school meals.
- v. Revolving fund or soft loan facilities for the implementation of viable income generating projects at every school including food production.

10.6 Recovery and Resilience plan

- i. In addition to grain, the balanced school meal requires the bulk procurement of daily rations for soya, chunks, matemba, beans and pulses.
- ii. There is need for other affordable sources of protein such as an egg per pupil, fresh fish and peanut butter, hence a revolving fund should be allocated to schools so that they can buy from the smallholder farmers and local communities.
- iii. Resources to support community empowerment projects to supply with poultry, rabbit, goats and beef to be procured by local schools.
- iv. Inputs for income generating projects at every school, including food production and other marketable goods and services for funds to sustain daily school meals.
- v. Smallholder farmers with access to irrigation need support for the reliable cabbages, green leave vegetables, onions and tomatoes that can also be dried to prolong shelf-life for non-seasonal availability to schools.
- vi. For skills development and resilience among pupils, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education request inputs for viable nutrition gardens as agriculture demonstration and practical learning hubs at all schools.

10.7 Gap Analysis

Under the 2024 fiscus, the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education through Treasury was allocated ZWL30 billion [USD1,5 million] for the School Feeding Programme. The budget has been channeled towards payment of 2023 arrears to contracted suppliers.

From the remainder, the Ministry budget will procure 3,3 thousand metric tonnes of grain from the GMB. Hence the Ministry is requesting a shortfall of **USD33,285,208.11** for the School Feeding Programme to cover the 191 days of the food deficit anticipated from the 2024/2025 El Nino induced drought.

11.0 Environment And Natural Resources Sector

11.1 Wildlife

The Wildlife Sector faces a critical challenge in mitigating the effects of the 2023/2024 El Niño induced drought on wildlife and fisheries within their estates. The impact of El Niño on wildlife can be complex and varied, depending on the specific species and their ecological requirements and to date elephants and buffaloes were reported as prominent species where a total of 188 elephants and 41 buffaloes succumbed to the effects of El Niño in Hwange National Park alone.

Most communal areas are open systems where wildlife moves in and out of protected areas, and grazing is more stressed than in conservation areas. Human-wildlife conflicts over scarce resources are likely to be critical in these areas. Forestry Commission, like any other land holder, will carry out its wild animal population reductions under the control of the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority. Private stakeholders are being engaged to mobilize resources for drought mitigation e.g. in Hwange National Park among others. Strategies need to be formulated to mitigate against the effects of the drought which is projected to have an immense impact on wildlife and fisheries in the Parks and Wildlife Estate.

11.2 Response strategies

Water Provision

- i. The Government has already taken steps by installing solar-powered boreholes to pump underground water into pools for wildlife to drink. However, with surface water drying up, animals may still need to travel longer distances in search of food and water.
- ii. More boreholes will need to be drilled to increase available water to wildlife. Enhanced monitoring of these water points will need to be carried out to ensure adequate water is provided to avoid overcrowding at available water points, a situation that has negative impacts on vegetation.
- iii. Anti-poaching should be scaled up especially around water points which poachers usually target.
- iv. Scooping of the natural pans to enhance the water holding capacity.
- v. Provision of long-life lithium solar batteries to augment power and improve the solar pumping efficient (day and night).
- vi. Additional diesel generator pumps were sourced from conservation partners.
- vii. Back-up batteries to be installed for pumping during the night.

11.3 Wildlife Movement Corridors

Establish and maintain wildlife movement corridors that connect different habitats. These corridors allow animals to migrate to areas with better resources during droughts within the country and in transfrontier conservation areas.

11.4 Fisheries Management

- i. Monitor water levels in rivers and lakes within the estate and reduce fishing effort in proportion to the drop in water levels to minimize overfishing in these water bodies.
- ii. Stock assessment: Regularly assess fish populations to understand their health and abundance to come up with informed management decisions.

11.5 Community Engagement and Awareness

- i. Collaborate with local communities to raise awareness about the drought's impact on wildlife and fisheries.
- ii. Encourage responsible water use and sustainable fishing practices.

11.6 Research and Data Collection

- i. Conduct research on the specific effects of El Niño-induced droughts on local wildlife and fish species.
- ii. Collect data on wildlife movements, water availability, and fish populations.

11.7 Emergency Response Plans

- i. Develop and rehearse emergency response plans for extreme drought scenarios.
- ii. These plans should include protocols for relocating animals, emergency water supply and rescue operations.

11.8 Climate-Resilient Ecosystem Restoration

- i. Invest in restoring and enhancing ecosystems to make them more resilient to climate extremes.
- ii. Plant drought-resistant vegetation and restore degraded habitats.

11.9 Collaboration with International Organizations

- i. Seek support and expertise from international conservation organizations.

- ii. Share knowledge and best practices with other countries facing similar challenges or those that have faced these challenges in the past.

11.10 Public Education and Advocacy

- i. Addressing the effects of El Niño-induced droughts requires a multi-faceted approach, involving collaboration, innovation, and adaptive management.
- ii. Educate the public about the importance of wildlife and fisheries conservation during droughts.
- iii. Advocate for policies that prioritize ecosystem health and resilience.

11.11 Budget

To enable adequate research and monitoring on the impacts of the El Niño-induced drought, the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority needs vehicles and boats in the keys Parks Estate. Currently, mobility in the Parks Estate is limited due to financial constraints.

Item	Total (USD)	Available budget (USD)	Budget gap (USD)
Water	283 000	100 000	183 000
Vehicles (4x4)	24 * 60 000 = 1 440 000	480 000	960 000
Boats (115 horsepower)	20 * 32 000 = 640 000	160 000	480 000
Education and awareness programs	100 meetings * 520 = 52 000	26 000	26 000
Monitoring, operations, and research	100 000 liters * 1.60 = 160 000	48 000	112 000
Fire-fighting equipment - Motorized Graders	8 * 50 000 = 400 000	100 000	300 000
TOTAL		914 000	2 121 000

11.12 Environment

The year 2023/24 El Nino-induced drought currently ravaging most parts of the country has left many households counting losses resulting in critical food shortages and requirements. These droughts being experienced have severely compromised food and income security for the majority. The affected communities are exploiting their surrounding for short-term survival since the environment, with its open access, provides safety nets for livelihood sustenance in drought situations. Against this backdrop, wetland degradation will take a toll in most areas across the country. The drought that the country is currently experiencing will result in prolonged fire season, making farming communities more susceptible to veld fires.

11.13 Impact of drought and coping strategies.

Drought impacted area	Brief description	Mitigation - Disaster response	Building resilience (building better)
Wetlands ecosystems	Wetlands are sources of water to enhance community livelihoods and livelihoods options. During drought, wetlands are the only reliable sources of water for communities and hence the need to be protected.	Wetland rehabilitation and protection. Support of sustainable community livelihoods through building ecosystem resilience.	Fencing off core wetlands to safeguard them against degradation. Establish solar powered consolidated community gardens. Establishment of boreholes and efficient water conveyancing to support livelihoods options
Veld fire management	Veldfires have remained one of the national environmental challenge that is mainly threatening agriculture, tourism, energy and human well-being. This is being further exacerbated by the current drought which lengthens the fire	Reducing biomass in fire prone areas through integrating fire management in food for assets programmes.	Fireguard construction in 45 fire prone districts. Hay baling in 45 districts. Thatch grass harvesting in all the 60 districts.

	<p>season.</p> <p>Reducing biomass in fire prone areas through integrating fire management in food for assets programmes.</p>		<p>Accelerated environmental education and awareness in 45 districts.</p>
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11.14 Budget

Drought impacted area	Target	Available budget (USD)	Total (USD)	Budget gap (USD)
1. Wetlands ecosystems	<p>60 wetlands (one key wetland in each district)</p> <p>60 consolidated gardens.</p> <p>60 solar powered boreholes</p>	50 000.00	<p>Wetland fencing (60 X @ 2500) = 150 000.00</p> <p>2h Garden fencing off (60 gardens X 5000) = 300 000.00</p> <p>Solar powered boreholes (60 boreholes x 10 000) = 600 000.00</p> <p>Total: 1 050 000</p>	1 000 000
Veld fire management	<p>All crop and grazing lands should be protected by standard fireguards.</p> <p>Hay baling – ward based hay baling using available equipment (mechanized and manual)</p>	48 000.00	<p>Fireguard construction (45 districts @ 10000 = 450 000.00</p> <p>Hay baling (45 districts x 10 000) = 450 000.00</p> <p>Thatch grass harvesting – (1000 X 60 districts) = 60 000.00</p>	

Drought impacted area	Target	Available budget (USD)	Total (USD)	Budget gap (USD)
	all the 60 districts Strengthening of ward level environmental-sub committees in 45 districts.		45 districts x 10 000) = 450 000 Total: 1 410 000	1 362 000
TOTAL		98 000	2 460 000	2 362 000

11.15 Forestry

Droughts are a recurring natural hazard in Southern Africa, posing a significant threat to the health and sustainability of Zimbabwe's forestry sector. This section presents the risks associated with droughts, their impact on forests and trees, and proposes a comprehensive strategy for disaster risk reduction (DRR).

11.16 Impacts of Droughts on Forests and Trees

The - drought is likely to have a cascading effect on Zimbabwe's forestry sector, including:

11.17 Increased tree mortality

Limited water availability weakens trees, making them more susceptible to death, especially during prolonged droughts.

11.18 Reduced growth and productivity

- i. Drought stress hinders tree growth and overall forest productivity.
- ii. The immediate impact of this is likely to be felt by herbivore wildlife species and population.
- iii. Human populations who also depend on various non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as fruits and edible insects also get affected.

11.19 Increased vulnerability to fires

Dry conditions are likely to result in increased wildland fires across all the Forest Management Units and communal forests.

11.20 Increased vulnerability to pests and diseases

- i. Stressed trees become more susceptible to attacks by insects, fungi, and other pathogens, further compromising forest health.
- ii. Though Zimbabwe's forest sector had registered significant impact on the biological control and surveillance of three (3) major Alien Invasive Pests namely *Thaumastocoris peregrinus*; *Leptocybe invasa*; and *Glycaspis brimblecombei*, the drought conditions are likely to affect pest population dynamics and the survival of natural enemies of these pests.

11.21 Degraded Forest Health

The combined effects of drought, tree mortality and increased pest/disease vulnerability can lead to a significant decline in overall forest health.

11.22 Loss of Habitats and Ecosystem Services

Healthy forests provide vital ecosystem services like soil conservation, water regulation, and biodiversity. Drought-degraded forests are less effective in providing these services.

11.23 Response Strategies for Drought Risk Reduction

The Forestry sector proposes a multi-pronged approach to address drought risks and impact in Zimbabwe's forestry sector:

11.24 Enhanced fire monitoring and control/ management:

Droughts create drier conditions that elevate the risk of wildfires. Fires can devastate drought-stressed forests, further exacerbating the problem. While Forestry Commission is responsible for fire management coordination in line with the amended Forest Act (19:05), the drought induced fire burden will require additional resources for the management and control of forest fires which are predicted to increase rapidly due to increased fuel load.

11.25 Game water supply in gazetted forests

The intensity of drought in gazetted forests which are wildlife habitats will need to be mitigated through enhanced water provision for the survival of wildlife which is the mainstay of ecotourism and conservation. This has an impact on ecological dynamics in natural forest ecosystems including wildlife populations in Forestry Commission's jurisdiction which include Ngamo, Gwaai, Sikumi, Gwampa and Intundla.

11.26 Post-drought tree planting programs and rehabilitation initiatives for fire-damaged areas

The current drought has caused severe negative impacts on the survival of planted trees and has also affected achievements on set targets for tree planting as fewer trees (2.1 million) than planned (13 million) for the first quarter of 2024 were planted as a result of unavailability of adequate rainfall in most dry areas of the country. There is need to conduct massive post-drought tree planting and rehabilitation in areas that will be affected by fires so as to achieve national target of 30 million trees planted by the end of the season in December 2024.

- i. Promote sustainable forest management practices that improve water retention within woodlands.
- ii. Invest in increased water provision for forest nurseries- including water harvesting specifically designed to support drought-resistant tree species in vulnerable areas.
- iii. Build capacity of forestry personnel in drought response and forest recovery techniques.
- iv. Raise public awareness about the importance of healthy forests for drought mitigation and encourage community participation in DRR initiatives.

11.27 Further Research on Natural Regeneration Dynamics:

The Government of Zimbabwe through support from development partners is investing in forest monitoring in support of sustainable forest management in the country's woodlands and forests.

However, a deeper understanding of how Miombo and Mopane woodlands regenerate naturally after droughts is essential. This requires:

- i. Establishing additional Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) across various Natural Regions within Communal drylands. These PSPs will be crucial for monitoring tree responses to droughts and fire over time.
- ii. Implementing soil seedbank sampling to assess the status of seed banks and their potential for post-drought regeneration.
- iii. Conducting tree phenology studies to understand how flowering and seed production dynamics are affected by droughts in both natural and planted forests.

11.28 Budget

Drought impacted area	Comments	Available budget (USD)	Total (USD)	Budget gap (USD)
Nursery Water Supply Boreholes	Upgrading of existing water supply including solarisation for optimum utilization of the boreholes	15 000	15 * 8 000 = 120 000	115 000
Production of drought resilient seedlings	Production of seedlings at central nurseries	1 000 000	10 000 000 * 0.30 = 3 000 000	2 000 000
Watering of Established Household/community fruit trees	Watering facilities for established projects targeting areas that have benefited boreholes under the Presidential schemes and developing partners.	1 400	1 000 * 100 = 100 000	98 600
Increased fire protection costs Fire-fighting equipment	Fire-fighting trucks x5, chainsaw x6, fire beaters and water containers, and protective clothing for gazetted forests	20 000	194 000	174 000
Community Fire Awareness Campaigns	Fuel and Information, Education & Communication materials	15 000	65 * 1 000 = 65 000	50 000
Food Rations for Forest Rangers	Food rations for patrols during the patrols	3 500	15 000.00	11 500

Water provision for wildlife in gazetted forests/ Game water supply	Drilling of boreholes and equipping to supply game water	16 000	5 * 10 000 = 50 000	34 000
Fuels for operations	Pre-suppression and suppression measures and fuels for extension activities during the fire season	23 000	30 000 * 1.70 = 51 000	28 000
Community Capacity Building sessions on Resilience Agro-forestry Projects, Non-Timber Forests Products	Workshops, value addition processes and marketing. Covering also apiculture	12 000	120 * 1 000 = 120 000	108 000
Additional Plots (PSPs) for resilience assessment /monitoring of Miombo and Mopane woodlands	Fieldwork and V&E costs for setting up monitoring plots in miombo and mopane woodlands	40 000	10 * 12 000 = 120 000	80 000
Establish soil seedbank assessments and research to assess drought and post-drought resilience of target NTFPs and woodland ecosystems for Marula and Baobab	Fieldwork, analysis and V&E costs for setting up soil seedbank plots in Marula and Baobab woodlands	2 800	2 * 6 800 = 13 600	10 800
Conducting tree phenology studies to understand response mechanisms in flowering and seed production dynamics of natural and planted forests (Agro-ecological regions 1,2,3 4 and 5)	Fieldwork: Data collection, analysis and V&E costs for ecology research	9 500	5 * 6 800 = 34 000	24 500
TOTAL		1 158 200		2 734 400

11.29 Summary Budget

Section	Available budget (USD)	Budget gap (USD)
Wildlife	914 000	2 121 000
Environment	98 000	2 362 000
Forestry	1 158 200	2 734 200
Total	2 170 200	7 217 200

12.0 Energy Sector

The country is currently grappling with challenges in power supply due to depressed generation in all our power stations. The El Nino induced drought has taken a toll at Kariba Dam where our water levels have gone so low that the power station at Kariba can only generate an average of 211MW per day. This is coupled with frequent breakdowns and shutdowns at Hwange Power Station Units 1 to 6 due to the age of the plant.

Faced with the current drought situation, urgent measures need to be taken to avert adverse results.

12.1 Mitigation Measures

In mitigation, the Ministry of Energy and Power Development has come up with the following immediate measures:

- i. **Hwange Stages 1&2 life Extension Project**, that has been identified as a low hanging fruit, was launched where Units 1-6 will be rehabilitated. Work has started with the rehabilitation of Unit 5 that is expected to end during the first half of 2025. There is need for financial support to fill the funding gap that is indicated in the table below. It is critical to support the energy sector as the performance of other sectors is hinged on availability of energy.
- ii. The demand vs supply gap also necessitates **power imports** from within the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).
- iii. **Demand Side Management** (DSM) through Load limiting on select consumers with smart meters is also one of the options to manage demand for power. The Ministry of Energy and Power Development is also carrying out awareness campaigns on using electricity sparingly.
- iv. Increasing **support to Private sector-initiated projects** (Independent Power Producers, IPPs) through Government Project Support Agreement.

All these measures require financial support as the current budgetary allocations are not sufficient for the measures to be effective within 12 months.

As the country moves toward the end of the rainy season, and with a prolonged dry spell, the water security situation continues to deteriorate. The national dam storage levels have decreased to 82.7% full as of March 7, 2024, with seven (7) water supply stations having less than 12 months of raw water supply. There are increased reports of safe water sources drying up. The Kariba lake levels have also been steadily decreasing, (*14.72% usable storage as of the 11th March 2024*) due to low inflow and reduced rainfall activity on and around the lake. This inevitably impacts hydro-electric power generation which in turn affects water production, industry and commerce and upcoming winter cropping.

12.2 Summary of Requirements for the Energy Sector

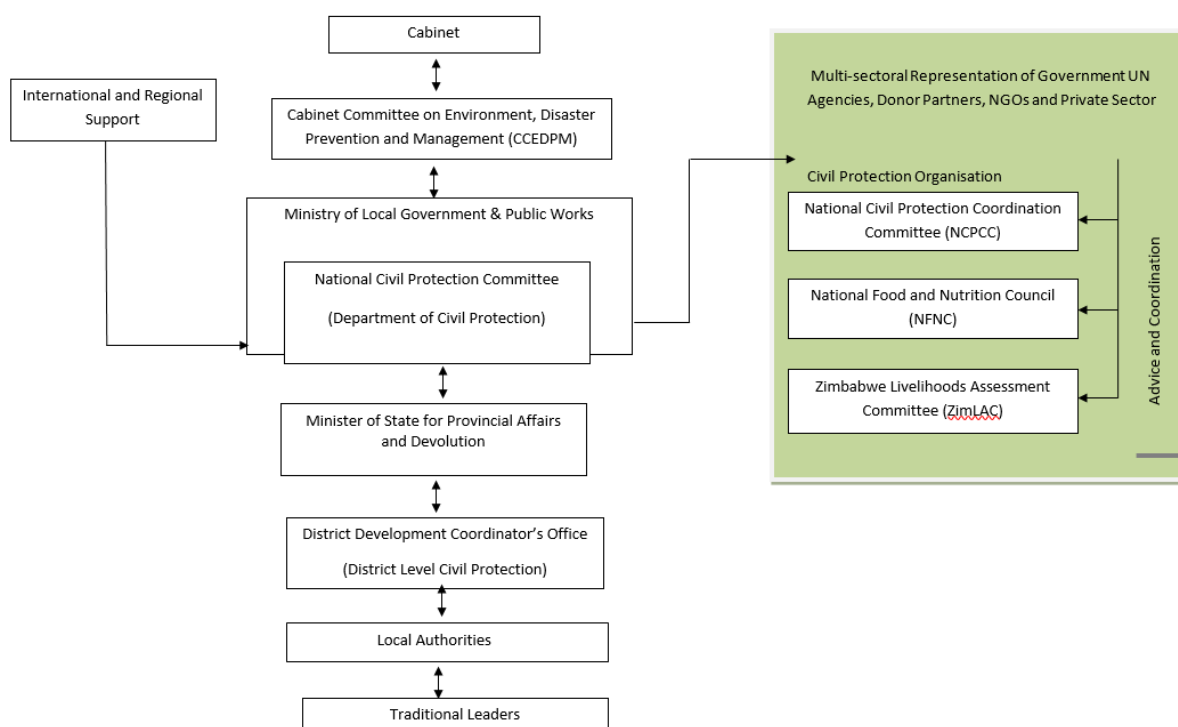
	Intervention	Budget (USD million)	Available Resources (ZESA) (USD million)	Gap (USD million)
Immediate Interventions	Demand Side Management and Energy Efficiency • Awareness Campaigns, Road shows and Mass Media	3	0	3
	Increase in Power Imports • 50MW	36	0	36
	Promotion of Net Metering and Power Banking • Mass Media	1.8	0	1.8
	Immediate maintenance of Hwange 1&2 running units	60	60	0
	Hwange Life Extension Project Unit 5 Rehabilitation	60	50	10
	Government Implementation Agreement • Escrow Account	30	0	30
Total (million USD)		184.8	110	80.8

13.0 MACRO SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMEs)

There are approximately 4.1 million individuals operating 3,4 million MSMEs. The sector is a safety net to the country's livelihoods with a large number of Entrepreneurs operating various enterprises in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (39.2%). Due to the El Nino induced drought, value chains have been impacted negatively due to shortage of raw materials which might lead to reduced employment and incomes.

In order to reduce these challenges, capitalization of MSMEs is critical to restore their productive capacities, find alternative sources of raw materials and markets for their products. To this effect, a budget of USD 30 million to promote innovative programmes that aim to restore livelihoods.

14.0 Coordination Architecture



This coordination architecture was approved by Cabinet in 2019 and shall be applied

15.0 Partnership and Coordination

The response is led by the Government of Zimbabwe and supported by development and humanitarian partners. A localization approach is core to the response with the fundamental partnership with local authorities, private sector and the affected populations being central to the response to ensure that their knowledge, capacities and experience are part of humanitarian response plan. Coordination will therefore require an estimated \$10million at national and sub-national level.

Private Voluntary Organisations complement Government efforts in the provision of services to cushion vulnerable groups in time of this disaster. There is an anticipated increase in the number of prospective PVOs coming in to complement Government efforts following the President's call for assistance. There is therefore need to scale up on compliance monitoring and evaluation of activities.

16.0 Summary of Requirements

No.	Sector	Available Budget	Budget gap
1.	Agriculture	US\$ 41,192,382	US\$2,076,162,677.98
2.	Food and Nutrition Security	US\$ 16,500, 000	US\$895,161,000
3.	Health	US\$6,000,000 (emergency preparedness)	US\$ 64,000,000
4.	WASH	US\$10,000,000	US\$ 699,202,176
5.	Energy	US\$110,000,000	US\$80,800,000
6.	Education	US\$1,034,000	US\$ 33,285,208.11
7.	Protection	US\$195,758,600	US\$ 96,396,000
8.	Environment and Natural Resources	US\$2,170,200	US\$ 7,217,200
9.	Coordination	US\$100,000	US\$ 10,000,000
10.	MSMEs		US\$ 30,000,000
Total		US\$372,755,182	US\$3,992,224,262.09

17.0 Categorization of Requirements

Immediate requirements

- i. Food aid
- ii. School feeding programme
- iii. Harmonized cash transfers
- iv. Public Works programmes
- v. BEAM
- vi. Presidential borehole drilling scheme
- vii. Borehole rehabilitation programme
- viii. Non food items for WASH
- ix. Stock feeds and hay bailing
- x. Transport and logistical support

Medium-long term requirements

- i. Livelihood projects
- ii. Community nutritional gardens
- iii. Farming inputs
- iv. Winter cropping
- v. WASH infrastructure
- vi. Establishment of new and rehabilitation of existing irrigation schemes
- vii. Alternative green energy sources.

18.0 Conclusion

The impact of the current El Nino induced drought is expected to last until March 2025 for most communities. It is therefore critical that requisite resources be mobilized urgently to assure communities of sustenance.

It is critical to note that during the crafting of the initial Appeal document, focus was placed on search, rescue and mitigation which constituted **US\$ 2 billion** as stated by His Excellency, the President in the declaration statement. However, in order to build resilience, a further **US\$ 1.9 billion** has since been added.