



📍 ZAMBIA

## PROJECT FEATURES

**Year:**  
2020-2022 (15 months duration)

**Benefiting zone:**  
Zambia (Southern and Western districts)

**Implementing agency:**  
UNICEF-Zambia

**Total cost of the project:**  
€ 7.28 million

**EU contribution:**  
€ 2 million

**Partners contribution:**  
UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO):  
€ 4.8 million

United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF):  
€ 0.48 million

**Type of EU support:**  
Humanitarian aid

## THE EUROPEAN UNION AND UNICEF HELP CHILDREN AFFECTED BY DROUGHT AND SUPPORT THE COVID-19 RESPONSE IN ZAMBIA

### The challenge: Drought leads to malnutrition and hinders the fight against COVID in Zambia

According to the Government of Zambia, the prolonged drought in 2018 and 2019 left 2.3 million people in severe food insecurity, with many children facing acute malnutrition. The lack of water has also hampered the country's ability to respond to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

When the only source of water for the inhabitants of a village are shallow wells or streams shared with local farm animals, the villagers often suffer from dysentery, diarrhoea and other water-borne illnesses. With the drought, the wells and streams dry out.

In the southern village of Chikwala, farmer Christine Maambo, who volunteers at the local health centre, describes the difficulties they have faced to provide water for their households and for farming: 'Because of the distance we had to walk to draw water, and the number of buckets and containers that needed to be filled, women and children would be getting up as early as four o'clock in the morning each day. The children were too tired to go to school after drawing water. They were often absent from school, and this led to poor grades.'

## KEY INDICATORS



**23 250 people**  
supplied with basic  
drinking water,  
preventive measures  
against Covid 19 and  
child nutrition services



**17 322 malnourished**  
children age 6-59  
months supported



**3 070 community**  
volunteers trained



**126 boreholes**  
constructed

## The solution: boreholes for clean and safe drinking water

In October 2020, UNICEF helped drill the first borehole that supplies the village of Chikwala and surrounding communities with clean and safe water. With support from the European Union, 126 new boreholes were constructed (86 boreholes in communities and 40 boreholes in health facilities providing nutrition services) in the 19 districts most affected by drought and COVID-19 to benefit more than 23 250 people, of which 17 322 are acutely malnourished children age 6-59 months.

## Results and impact: water for health and human development

The 2 million euros allocated by the European Union to UNICEF for this project are also helping to provide water in health facilities, as well as infection prevention and control, in line with Zambia's Water, Sanitation and Health Sector Response Plan for COVID-19. More than a hundred health facilities have been supplied with chlorine, soap, hand sanitizer, handwashing stations and solid waste bins.

Additionally, the funds help UNICEF offer comprehensive nutrition services to treat acutely malnourished children and to monitor those living in the districts that face the heaviest impact from recent droughts. UNICEF also supported the training of 826 health workers and 3 070 community volunteers to provide counselling in infant and young child nutrition. A monthly average of 34 780 mothers with children under 2 years of age received counselling for two years. These skills and know-how will be a legacy that continues to sustain the community long after the intervention is completed.

*'Now we can say goodbye to those early morning walks, trekking 2 kilometres each way to draw water from the streams before sunrise,' says Ms Maambo. 'We now can draw water at any time of the day.'*



Photo: © UNICEF/Zambia/2020/Kinny Siakachoma

Public Group on Water and Sanitation

[https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/public-water\\_and\\_sanitation/wiki/success-stories-1](https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/public-water_and_sanitation/wiki/success-stories-1)

E-mail: [INTPA-F2-WATER-SECTOR@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INTPA-F2-WATER-SECTOR@ec.europa.eu)