



## Rapid Response Fund

### ACT Secretariat Approval

**Project Code** 08/2024

**Project Name** Emergency Response to El Niño

The ACT Secretariat has approved the use of **USD280,000** from its Global Rapid Response Fund (GRRF24) with earmarked funding from ACT Church of Sweden.

**For further information please contact:**

National Forum Convenor

ACT Regional Representative

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ACT Humanitarian Programme Officer

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cyra'.

**Cyra Michelle Bullecer**

Global Humanitarian Operations Manager

ACT Alliance Secretariat

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## Rapid Response Fund

### Project Proposal

#### Emergency Prepared and Response Plan

Do you have an EPRP	Yes
When was the last update?	23-May-24
Do you have a Contingency Plan for this response?	
EPRP link on the online platform	

Please submit this form to the Regional Humanitarian Programme Officer of your region with a copy to the Regional Representative

Date submitted to ACT Secretariat

3-Jul-24

### Section 1 Project Data

#### Project Information

Project Name	Emergency Response to El Niño
Project Code	08/2024
Country Forum	Zimbabwe
ACT Requesting Member (if there are more than one member, please use ALT+<Enter> to add another member)	Zimbabwe Council of Churches Lutheran Development Services
Name of person leading the project	Sostina M Takure
Job Title	National Coordinator
Email	<a href="mailto:sota@dca.dk">sota@dca.dk</a>
WhatsApp/Signal/Telegram/Skype	263774394226
Location(s) of project (city / province)	ZCC-Gwanda and Chimanimani LDS- Insiza and Chiredzi
Project start date (dd/mm/yyyy)	01/Jul/24
Project end date (dd/mm/yyyy)	30/Sep/24

Which sectors your response activities most relate to

(please indicate number of planned beneficiaries per organisation in each sector where you plan to give assistance)

Sectors	ZCC		LDS	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Cash/ Vouchers	532	868	498	902
Camp Management				
Education				
Food/Nutrition				
Health				
Household items				
Livelihood				
Psychosocial	102	238	61	119
Shelter				
Wash/ dignity kits		1200		

### Section 2 Project Description

## 2.1 Context

### 1. CHS Commitment 1. Summarize the crisis event and how it is likely to develop over the duration of the project (maximum 5 bullet points)

Zimbabwe is experiencing a severe drought due to significant below-average rainfall experienced during the last rainy season October 2023– March 2024 (Relief Web). The country received less than 20% of the typical rainfall expected during this season. On 4th April 2024, the president of Zimbabwe declared drought a national disaster in Zimbabwe (BBC). All 72 districts are affected in varying degrees with 30/72 being the most affected (OCHA, 5 May 2024)

The poor rains have been attributed to the ongoing El Niño Southern Oscillation effects (World Weather Attribution). El Niño is a cyclical climate event marked by unusually warm ocean temperatures in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, that impacts weather patterns. In Zimbabwe El Niño has caused below average rainfall and protracted dry spells, causing food crops to dry and wither before producing food.

### 2. CHS Commitment 1,2,3,4. Explain the impact of the crisis specific to the people you want to help (maximum 5 bullet points)

The El Niño induced dry weather conditions have resulted in widespread food insecurity among drought affected rural communities as the affected areas are primarily rural communities who rely heavily on agriculture.

The Government of Zimbabwe estimates that a total population of 7.6 million people urgently require lifesaving and life-sustaining humanitarian assistance and protection support, as well as livelihood support, so that they may recover their losses, rebuild resilience, and access basic services. Of these an estimated 6 million (4.5 million rural and 1.5 million urban) people are food insecure. The 2024 rural and urban ZIMLAC assessments results for both rural and urban have not yet been published as these are also expected to give a real snapshot of the situation countrywide.

- The Government of Zimbabwe alerted that the people also urgently requires lifesaving and life-sustaining humanitarian assistance and protection support, as well as livelihood support, so that they may recover their losses, rebuild resilience, and access basic services. Expected harvests for the 2024 crop season are 700,000 metric tons (mths) of maize, out of an annual requirement of 2.2 million mths according to a flash appeal issued by OCHA.
- The impacts of El Niño has negatively affected local production, with estimates of a 52 percent shortfall. According to the Crop, Livestock and Fisheries Assessment Report (CLAFSA 1), the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture Fisheries and Rural Development in Zimbabwe's found that crop production was negatively affected: 40 percent of maize crops was classified as 'poor', and 60 percent as 'a write off'. According to the 2023 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) Report; even before the drought, 35 percent of rural households were accessing inadequate to water services, while forty-five percent of rural households were traveling more than half a kilometre to fetch water. El Nino has significantly increased the risk and even more people will be faced with water insecurity leading to longer distances travelled to access water.
- El Niño induced drought has a negative impact on health and nutrition. Diarrhoeal diseases increase, there is also reported higher risks of disease outbreaks, reduced immunity, heat stress, mental illness, and infectious and respiratory illnesses. Pregnant women and girls are considered at high risk for maternal complications related to drought as observed during previous El Nino events in 2015-2017.
- The deterioration of nutrition status will render children under age 5, as well as pregnant and

breastfeeding women, more vulnerable, as they require higher energy and micro-nutrient intake. Poor nutritional status and consequent poor immunity of children under age 5 will further increase their vulnerability to infectious diseases, while pregnant and lactating mothers will be at risk of poor maternal and neonatal outcomes.

- Faced with such a dire situation, households in the selected Districts are resorting to negative coping mechanisms by feeding on wild fruits, reducing the number of meals per day, posing a risk especially to vulnerable groups like children under 5 years, pregnant and lactating women, those with chronically illness, and the elderly.

The drought is heightening the risk of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation, and abuse. During drought events, an increased likelihood of child marriage and exposure to gender-based violence has been recorded. Meanwhile, limited access to water and dignity affect the menstrual hygiene of girls and women.

**3. CHS Commitment 9. Explain the availability of funding each of your organisation can access for this crisis. (maximum 3 bullet points)**

Currently, ZCC and LDS do not have access to any funding to response to this emergency situation in a bid to support the most vulnerable affected communities. Church Members are also doing the best they can through the social assistance programmes.

**2.2 Activity Summary**

**1. CHS Commitment 1, 2, 4. Explain your proposed project and why you have selected this particular response to the crisis.**

The proposed project proposes an integrated response to the drought crisis to provide a holistic life-saving response to needs of affected communities targeting to support 4,000 people in the selected districts to be food and water secure and manage stress as a result of drought. It is estimated that only 32% of the expected annual requirement of 2.2 million metric tons will be harvested while livestock has drastically decreased.

- Unconditional Mobile Cash Transfers (Ecocash/Mukuru) for 630 households at USD76 per household per month for three months. The amount is based on the national cash working group agreement in June 2024.

The cash transfers will enable families to buy essential household needs. The use of cash is in line with government policy which recommends the use of cash where markets are functional. The use of cash is safe, cost-effective, and preferred by the beneficiaries.

- Dignity kits for 1,200 women and girls will be distributed based on ZCC's assessment that these are the most critical need. Kits will contain soap, towels, toothbrush, toothpaste, pads, panties with buckets.

Community-Based Psychosocial Support (ZCC and LDS)

- Community-Based Psychosocial Support

The drought has caused trauma in communities affecting the psychosocial well-being of affected people hence the need for psychosocial support. This will improve the health and psychosocial well-being of affected communities. The action will include the provision of psychosocial support through group and individual counselling sessions carried out by the Department of Social Welfare and Faith Leaders. The Faith Leaders will receive a refresher training as they were trained in the last drought appeal in 2017. This will be enabled by a 2-day training for community Leaders on providing individual or group counselling to those who need it.

- Safeguarding - Complaints and Feedback Mechanism

The project will ensure community participation throughout implementation by the provision of inclusive feedback mechanisms, sharing information on rights, entitlements, key project activities, dates, and expected staff behaviour. A project risk assessment will be carried out during inception meetings together with the affected communities to identify risks, develop mitigation measures, and identify marginalised and highly vulnerable groups to ensure no one is left behind. The communities will select the preferred mechanisms of sharing their feedback and complaints and ZCC and LDS will avail these. A toll free number will also be included in the mechanisms which is already operational in the organisation. The project will maintain the collection and tracking of feedback, and inclusion of communities in the monitoring and evaluation of the project with regard to inclusion, safeguarding, and accountability. ZCC and LDS will generate dashboards on trends on issues that will inform learning and improve the response regularly.

**2. CHS Commitment 2. Explain how you will start your activities promptly.**

ZCC and LDS has operations in the 4 districts and coordinates with all the major humanitarian actors and have already signed Memorandum of Understanding with the local authorities, thus activities can start promptly.

Immediately after the approval of the RRF, ZCC and LDS will conduct inception meetings in the 4 districts with the district stakeholders sharing the project objectives and targets. This will pave the way for close collaboration with the District Development Coordinator and the Department of Social Development to identify areas to be prioritized.

The Department of Social Development has already registered the most vulnerable households in all the wards in the district which ZCC and LDS will leverage on and conduct verification processes and registration using the approved templates.

As members of the National Cash Working Group, ZCC and LDS has collected quotations from 2 service providers of cash transfers who presented during the working group meeting, Ecocash and Mukuru and these have agreed in principle to partner. Once the RRF has been approved, a written agreement with the actual amounts to be paid will be done.

The organization has been supporting communities in borehole rehabilitation thus pre-supply agreements are available with suppliers that produce borehole parts.

### 3. CHS Commitment 6. How are you co-ordinating and with whom?

ZCC and LDS will work with the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster in Zimbabwe and the National Cash Working Group to ensure complementarity or interventions apart from working closely with other forum members.

The 2 Members will also work with the Livelihoods and Climate Justice Community of Practice sub group for ACT Alliance Zimbabwe Forum.

They will also work with the relevant line Ministry in providing assistance to the communities and with the government Department of Social Services Department to complement the government's food assistance and Harmonized Social Cash Transfer (HSCT) schemes with technical guidance and collaboration from the National Cash Working Group in which ZCC is an active member.

### 4. CHS Commitment 3, 9. Where are you planning to procure your goods or services? Please tick

**boxes that apply.** *Goods and services procured locally supports and revitalises economic activity either as livelihood for people*

Locally or within the affected areas	X	Nationally	X	Regionally or neighbouring countries		
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Do you have a procurement policy? What factors did you consider when you made this decision?

ZCC and LDS have Procurement Policies that are crafted to guide the procurement process of project materials to ensure transparency, efficiency, compliance and accountability of resources. When a procurement process is being done, the following factors are considered:

Value for money – The Members strive to purchase the best project materials balancing the cost considerations with quality and suitability to the needs.

Transparency and accountability - as guided by the policy, in all procurement processes clear procedures are adhered to in request for quotation, soliciting for tenders, awarding of contracts with procedures in place to prevent conflicts of interests.

Compliance to government and donor requirements in all its procurement processes will be observed

## 2.3 Description of Target Population

**1. CHS Commitment 1, 9. How do you calculate the beneficiary numbers for this project?** *For example, food and hygiene kits given to 2500 families, and 1 family = x beneficiaries.*

The RRF will use the standard of 4 members per household. A household is defined as people who live and eat together on a daily basis.

The project targets to support:

630 Households = 2 800 persons. (1030 M / 1770F) for cash transfers and WASH activities.

1200 girls and women will be provided with dignity kits. These will be the most economically vulnerable in communities who cannot afford to purchase the items in the kits.

## **2. CHS Commitment 1, 2, 3, 4. Which vulnerable groups are you specifically targeting? What makes them vulnerable?**

**People with Disability:** PWD often face unique challenges that can exacerbate their vulnerability like limited Access to Resources such as food, water, healthcare, and income-generating opportunities. Physical barriers, discriminatory attitudes, and lack of accessible transportation restricts their ability to access markets, food distribution points, and essential services. Thus households with PWD will be targeted in this project.

**Children:** Under 5s as they are at risk of malnutrition and stunted growth, These will be targeted to ensure they are food secure so as to curb possible long-term consequences for their health and development.

**Pregnant and lactating women:** have increased nutritional requirements as they may not be able to meet their increased nutritional needs, putting them at risk of malnutrition. Malnutrition during pregnancy can lead to adverse outcomes such as low birth weight, preterm birth, and birth defects. Inadequate nutrition during lactation can also impair the quality and quantity of breast milk, affecting the health and growth of infants.

**The Elderly:** The drought has left the elderly very vulnerable as they have limited livelihood opportunities to earn non agriculture based income as they depend on their farms to access food (Zimbabwe largely gets its food sources from agriculture) In addition, the elderly have additional health needs and chronic diseases making them more susceptible to malnutrition and illness when not receiving adequate food and nutrition.

**Very Poor Smallholder Farmers:** These farmers make up a significant portion of Zimbabwe's population and are highly dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods and lack alternative sources of non agricultural based income.

**Vulnerable and poor Women-** Women in Zimbabwe often have less access to land, credit or agricultural inputs which limits their ability to diversify their income. Additionally, cultural norms may restrict women's access to education, employment, and decision-making, further exacerbating their vulnerability.

## **3. CHS Commitment 4. Explain how the target population has been/is involved in your proposed intervention**

A Rapid Needs Assessment conducted identified the food security gaps in the selected Districts. The assessment collected information related to food security among other information like opportunities available and coping mechanism adopted.

- The 2 Organisations have implemented other longer term projects in the 4 targeted districts, and have been able to engage with community members during project monitoring to identify the impact of the drought leading to the gap in food security among affected community members. During these interactions, communities shared their experiences since the beginning of the El-Nino phenomenon (October 2023).
- Feedback mechanisms in these four districts include suggestion boxes, toll free line. Having community facilitators and leadership will allow community members to be involved by providing feedback to implementing organisations on the drought situation, impact and possible response solutions

## 2.4 Expected Results

### 1. What will this project's success look like based on your time frame?

- To contribute to meeting the basic needs of targeted Households (including food and other needs) for 2800 individuals through 3 months unconditional cash transfers July- September 2024.
- Strengthened Psychosocial Well-Being for 3000 drought-affected people through counselling by trained Community leaders in Community Based Psychosocial Support. The affected individuals will experience better mental health and resilience by September 2024.
- Robust participation mechanisms to ensure accountability, inclusion, and continuous improvement of project activities will be done continuously throughout the project at all project gatherings

### 2. Describe the risks to a successful project and how you are managing them.

- **Political interference (low-risk)** – Political tensions can disrupt project activities and pose safety risks to staff and beneficiaries. This will be mitigated by fostering good relationships with local authorities and community leaders and emphasising the apolitical stance of the implementing organisations.
- **Changes in government policies (medium-risk)** - the change of currencies may affect the project implementation. The project will use USD in cash transfers and procurement of materials. The other risk associated will be the Government raiding Zimbabwe domiciled accounts owned by NGOs, this is highly unlikely as the Government has been maintaining a multiple currency regime to end in 2030.
- **Failure by stakeholders and communities to own projects (Low-Risk)** - poor coordination by partners and stakeholders. The project will be implemented in close collaboration with the relevant government line ministries and with close engagement with community leaders and committees formed.
- The project will be implemented when the country is facing economic challenges hence it is imperative to plan for unforeseen circumstances that can impact negatively on the delivery of outcomes. The Members are aware of the potential challenges posed by changes in the country's economic environment, such as shortages, price increases, or distortions.

## 2.5 Monitoring, Accountability & Learning

### 1. CHS Commitment 7. Describe how you will monitor the project. What monitoring tools and process will you use? How will you gather lessons from the project?



**Monitoring Approach:**

To ensure the effective implementation and impact of the project, a comprehensive monitoring strategy will be employed. This will involve regular tracking of activities, progress against objectives, and immediate outputs and outcomes. The monitoring process will ensure transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.

1. Activity Tracking Sheets: Project staff will fill out activity tracking sheets during and after the completion of each activity, noting the number of participants, location, and any immediate feedback.
2. Beneficiary Feedback Mechanisms: Regular feedback will be collected through suggestion boxes, feedback forms, and community meetings.
3. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework: To outline key indicators, data sources, and data collection methods. An M&E plan will be developed, detailing specific indicators for each project component (food security, protection, and psychosocial support). Regular data collection will be scheduled, and assessments will be conducted.
4. Site Visits and Field Observations: To verify the progress and quality of project activities on the ground. Regular site visits will be conducted by Programs Manager and M&E officer. Observations will be documented using standard checklists to ensure consistency. This will include Post Distribution Monitoring which will be done 2 weeks after every cash transfer (monthly). To gather qualitative data on the project's impact and community perceptions Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) will be held with different community groups (women, men, youth, and vulnerable groups) to discuss the project's progress and any emerging issues.
5. Monthly Progress Reports: To summarize project achievements, challenges, and learnings will be compiled and submitted, which will include data from activity tracking sheets, beneficiary feedback, site visits, and FGDs. These reports will be reviewed by the project management team and shared with the project stakeholders.

**Gathering Lessons from the Project:**

After-Action Reviews (AARs): To reflect on project activities and outcomes, and identify successes and areas for improvement, AARs will be conducted after major activities or milestones. Project staff, community representatives, and key stakeholders will participate to discuss what went well, what didn't, and why.

Case Studies and Stories of Change: To document specific instances of success or challenge, detailed case studies and stories of change will be developed to highlight significant outcomes, innovative practices, and critical challenges. These will be used for internal learning and shared with ACT Alliance and other stakeholders.

Community Feedback Sessions: To engage beneficiaries in evaluating the project's impact and gathering suggestions, regular feedback sessions will be held with community members to discuss their experiences and gather their suggestions for improvement. These sessions will ensure that the project remains responsive to the needs of the community.

Learning Reports: At the end of the project, a comprehensive learning report will be compiled, summarizing key insights, best practices, and recommendations in implementing cash transfers, water point rehabilitation, GBV awareness, CBPSS, and safeguarding. This report will be shared with ACT Alliance, National Cash Working Group, and other stakeholders.

**2. CHS Commitment 8. Does your organisation have a Code of Conduct? Have all staff and volunteers signed the Code of Conduct?**

ZCC and LDS have Code of Conduct which is signed by all staff members, volunteers, and consultants upon engagement. This governs the conduct of the staff, volunteers, and consultants as they conduct their work on empowering communities. The reading, understanding, and signing of the Code of Conduct is a mandatory part of the onboarding process for all new staff members, volunteers, and consultants. During orientation sessions, the code will be presented, explained, and discussed to ensure understanding. Dedicated induction sessions are held to go through the code of conduct in detail, highlighting key principles, expectations, and consequences of breaches. The Code of Conduct outlines key responsibilities and conduct and the safeguarding policy enhances this. The policy ensures the protection of communities against exploitation and abuse.

**3. How will you ensure you and all stakeholders will be accountable to the affected population. How will you share information. How will you collect and use feedback and complaints? CHS 4 and 5**

ZCC and LDS will work with and through stakeholders that include Government line Ministries and other local leaders from the inception right through the project duration. To ensure accountability, the implementing organisations and the stakeholders will recognize the affected people as first responders and decision-making power should be in the hands of the people directly impacted by crises, especially on beneficiary selection. The Organizations will acknowledge women, girls, men, and boys of all ages and diverse backgrounds as the first responders and active agents in their relief and recovery.

The project will be guided by humanitarian principles that will guide the accountability plan that will hold ZCC and LDS staff and stakeholders responsible for community engagement. There will be regular engagements with affected communities, and this will include informing, involving, and listening to them. Accountability of the project will involve functioning and open communication channels. Implementing Organisations will utilise existing various platforms to disseminate information. These will include community meetings and the organisations website and social media platforms. The platforms will be regularly updated with project progress, impact stories, and relevant data. They will work closely with local partners, government stakeholders, NGOs, and community leaders and establish networks that can help amplify our project's message.

Complaints and feedback mechanisms will be put in place that include the help desk, suggestion box and toll-free hotline. The help desk will be manned by representatives of ZCC and LDS, community leaders, government stakeholders and Special Groups including women and PWDs. They will have a book to record all grievances and will follow complaints handling procedures and timelines to ensure that appropriate redress is given in the shortest possible time. Hotline banners will be displayed, and recipients made aware and encouraged to use them where necessary. Through feedback and complaints

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## Rapid Response Fund

### Consolidated Financial Report

Project Code 08/2024  
Project Name Emergency Response to El Niño

Budget Exchange rate (local currency to 1 USD) 1.000000000

Please use exchange rate from this site: <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

	Total Budget	Total Expenses	Burn Rate	Budget			Total Expenses		
				Zimbabwe Council of Churches	Lutheran Development Services	Member 3	Member 1	Member 2	Member 3
<b>1 Total Project Staff Costs</b>	<b>25,302</b>	-	-	<b>12,150</b>	<b>13,152</b>	-			
<b>2 Project Activities</b>	<b>208,545</b>	-	-	<b>103,742</b>	<b>104,804</b>	-			
2.1 Cash/Vouchers	180,349	-	-	81,795	98,554	-			
2.2 Camp Management	-	-	#DIV/0!	-	-	-			
2.3 Education	-	-	#DIV/0!	-	-	-			
2.4 Food/Nutrition	-	-	#DIV/0!	-	-	-			
2.5 Health	-	-	#DIV/0!	-	-	-			
2.6 Household items	-	-	#DIV/0!	-	-	-			
2.7 Livelihood	-	-	#DIV/0!	-	-	-			
2.8 Psychosocial	18,717	-	-	12,467	6,250	-			
2.9 Shelter	-	-	#DIV/0!	-	-	-			
2.10 WASH	9,480	-	-	9,480	-	-			
<b>3 Project Implementation</b>	<b>3,160</b>	-	-	<b>3,160</b>	-	-	-	-	-
3.1 Forum Coordination	3,160	-	-	3,160	-	-			
3.2 Capacity Development	-	-	#DIV/0!	-	-	-			
<b>4 Quality and Accountability</b>	<b>21,244</b>	<b>10,464</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,780</b>	<b>10,464</b>	-			
<b>5 Logistics</b>	<b>7,560</b>	<b>3,960</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,960</b>	-			
<b>6 Assets and Equipment</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>#DIV/0!</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	-			
<b>Direct Costs</b>	<b>265,812</b>	<b>14,425</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>133,432</b>	<b>132,380</b>	-	-	-	-
Staff Salaries	7,305	-	-	3,285	4,020	-			
Office Operations	6,884	-	-	3,284	3,600	-			
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>14,189</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,569</b>	<b>7,620</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>280,000</b>	<b>14,425</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>140,000</b>	<b>140,000</b>	-	-	-	-