



ZAMBIA RED CROSS SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT 2024





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Zambia Red Cross Society

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May 2025

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Acronyms

ASHR	Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
BHA	Bureau For Humanitarian Assistance
CBHR II	Community Based Health Care and Resilience II
DMMU	Disaster Mitigation and Management Unit
ECHO PPP.....	European Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid Operations Public Partnerships
HDL	The Henry Dunant Lodge
ICRC	The International Committee of the Red Cross
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
MoH	Ministry of Health
MNCH	Maternal Neonatal Child Health
NLRC	Netherlands Red Cross
NS	National Society
ORP	Oral Rehydration Points
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PIN	People In Need
WASH	Water and Sanitation
WPFA	Workplace First Aid
ZNPHI	Zambia National Public Health Institute
ZRCS	Zambia Red Cross Society

GOVERNANCE 2024



Martin Ng'onga
National President



Mukelebai Mukelebai
Vice National President



Mpangaiche Evans
National Disaster Chairperson



Deborah Mwansa
National Social Welfare Chairperson



Imbwela Imbwela
National Training Chairperson



Larry Musanje
National Finance Chairperson



John Kafwanka
National Legal Chairperson



Qulicy Sipumo
National Youth Chairperson

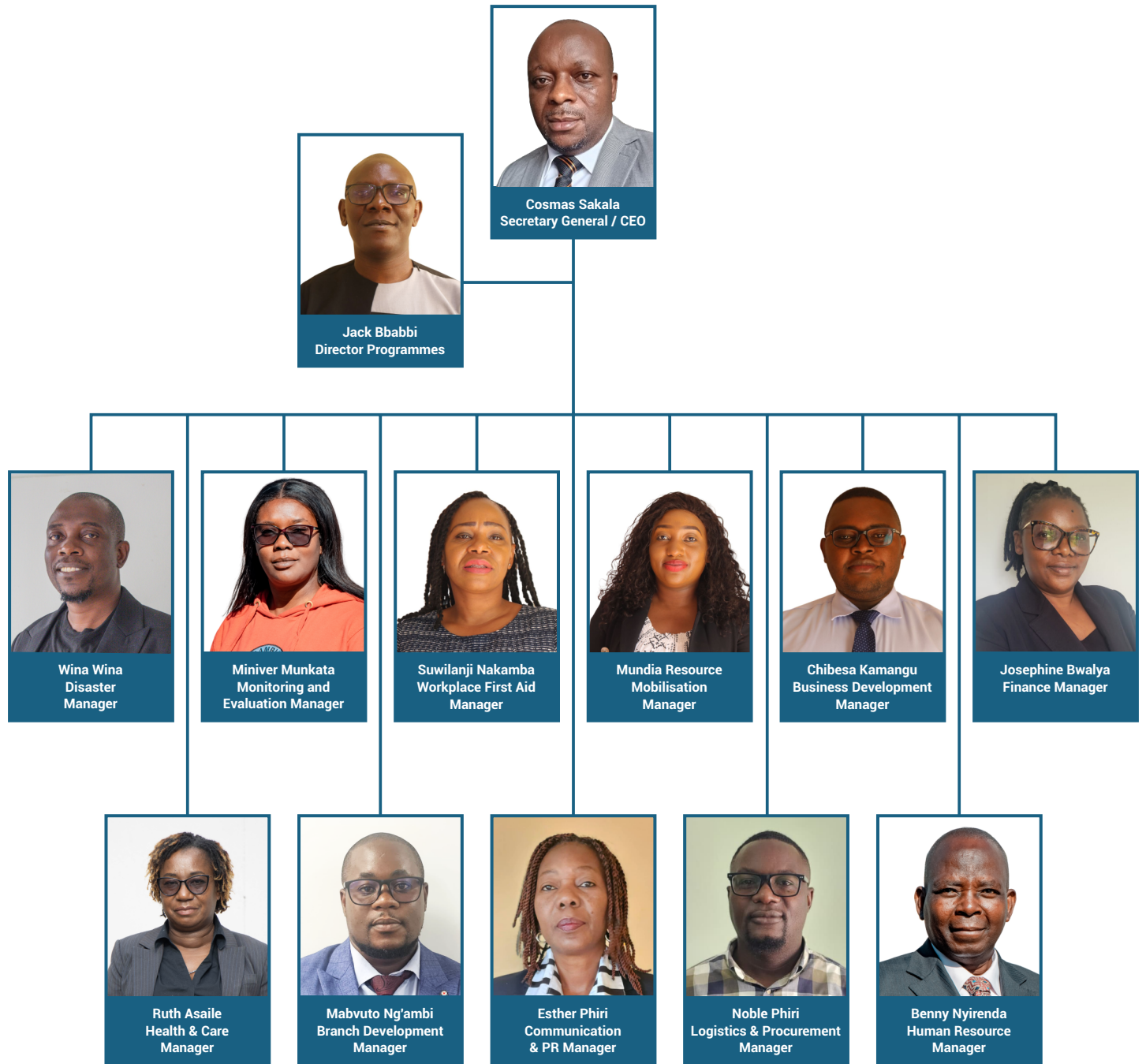


Eusebious Musonda
National Information Chairperson



Muzala Kapina
National Health Chairperson

Management Composition 2024



Message from ZRCS National President



Martin Ngo'nga

Across the globe, regionally, and here at home, communities continue to face escalating emergencies driven by climate change such as floods, droughts, food insecurity, and health crises like epidemics and pandemics. These challenges have tested the capacity of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide, demanding even greater efforts to support vulnerable populations. Yet, they also presented opportunities to strengthen our humanitarian response, build resilience, and save lives and livelihoods.

During 2024, Zambia endured significant disasters like outbreaks of cholera, anthrax, and Mpox, a devastating drought, and re-occurring hazards like floods and food insecurity. Despite these challenges Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS) expanded its operations, reinforcing its role as an auxiliary to public authorities. Through strategic partnerships with both the government and non - governmental organizations, we amplified our reach and impact, ensuring more communities receive critical humanitarian aid.

Our strength is in the membership in the network of branches across the country, where disasters begin and end, which grew by 18%, closing at 8370 members in 2024. Notably, 199 differently abled people have joined as volunteers, underscoring our inclusivity.

At the close of 2024, the NS ushered in a new National Governing Board, smoothly transitioning from the previous board which was a milestone in ensuring and assuring constitutionalism, integrity and continuity of governance of the Society, and positioning ZRCS for more effective local action. As we navigate an era of increasing disasters, we remain committed to innovative, adaptive and collaborative principled humanitarian action, ensuring we meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

Together, we will continue to build a stronger, relevant and more resilient Zambia

Message from the Secretary General/CEO



Cosmas Sakala

This report gives us an opportunity to look back and reflect on, and share our experiences, performance and relevance in an evolving humanitarian landscape in the Country in 2024. Though the year was characterized by a mixture of successes and failures, both experiences were relevant to our growth and sustainability. While successes informed us of our capability and strongholds, which should be sustained to impactfully deliver our mandate, the failures were learning points and the basis for us to keep pushing for greater results in the face of escalating disasters such as the distressing cholera outbreak and devastating drought and associated socio-economic consequences such as livelihoods challenges and food insecurity. To remain relevant in the humanitarian sphere, the National Society needed to adapt continually, stay agile and find new ways of working together.

The technical and financial support received from movement and non-movement partners such as the Netherlands Red Cross, IFRC, ICRC, Italian Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, American Red Cross, UNICEF, Czech Republic, and others, as well as the strong collaboration with public authorities, catalyzed ZRCS humanitarian and developmental interventions in delivering its mandate and drive the transformative agenda, with clear indicators of improved performance from various fronts. Our programming grew by more than 2 folds, expanding our reach and impact. We remain committed to being a beacon of hope for vulnerable communities, and upholding transparency and accountability to end users of our services, and partners.

As we embark on the year 2025, ZRCS builds on the resilience and lessons of 2024, strengthening its legal base, enhanced collaboration and resource mobilization for greater and sustainable impact in the face of evolving humanitarian landscape and shrinking donor space.

Enjoy the reading and walk with us through our 2024 humanitarian journey.

About Zambia Red Cross Society

Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCS) is an organization that was established by an Act of Parliament under the Societies Act Cap 307 in 1966. In 2024, ZRCS continued its vital role in supporting Government, international, and local efforts to provide humanitarian assistance. Our focus remains on reaching the most vulnerable and restoring dignity to those affected by natural or man-made disasters.

ZRCS is guided by the Seven Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement:

- **Humanity:** We aim to prevent and alleviate suffering, protect life and health, and uphold human dignity.
- **Impartiality:** Aid is given based solely on need, without discrimination.
- **Neutrality:** We do not take sides in conflicts or engage in political or ideological debates.
- **Independence:** While working alongside the government, we act autonomously to uphold our principles.
- **Voluntary Service:** Our work is driven by commitment, not personal gain.
- **Unity:** Each country has one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society, open to all and operating nationwide.
- **Universality:** All National Societies are equal and support one another globally.

These principles continue to guide our mission and ensure integrity, trust, and impact in everything we do.

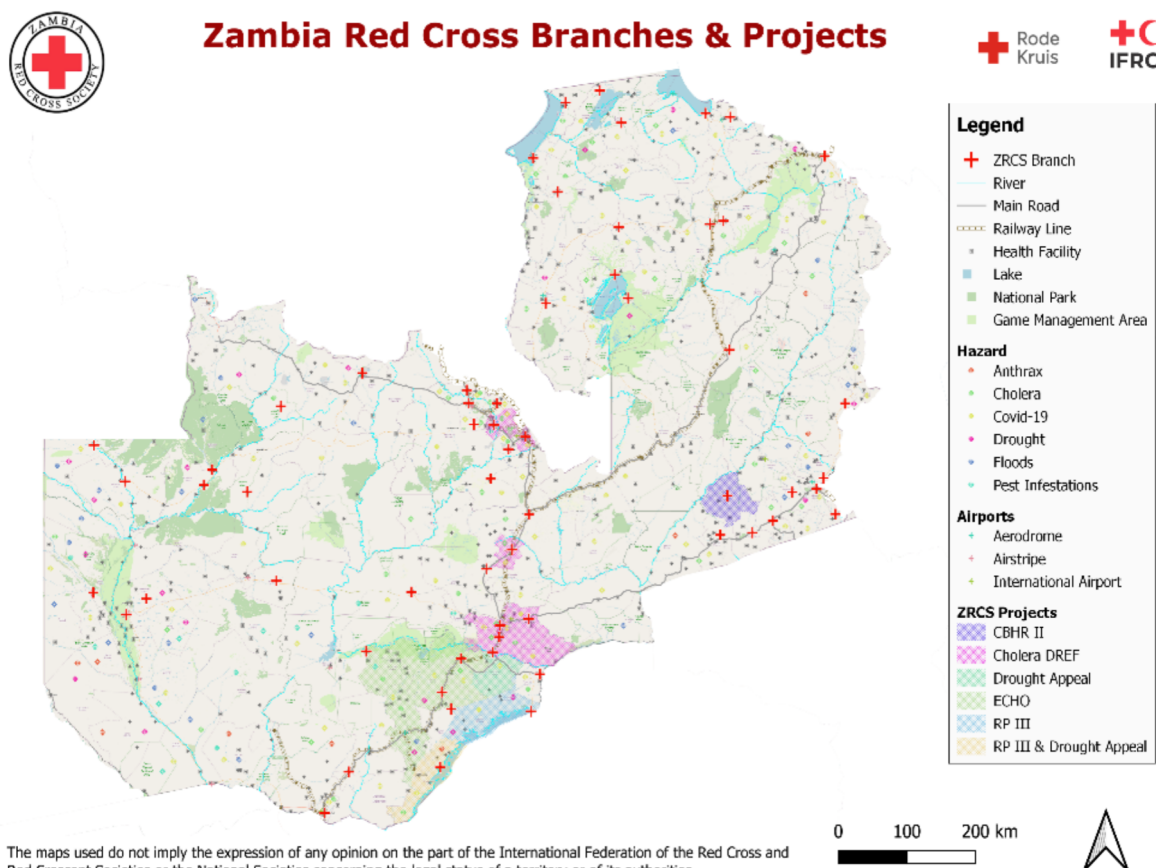



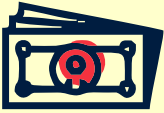






Figure 1: 62 branches of Zambia Red Cross Society

Highlights of Activities

	4,880,754 reached with health programming.
	4,296,379 people reached with WASH Interventions.
	65,644 externally displaced people reached with Restoring Family Links services.
	13,095 households supported with Cash Voucher Assistance.
	1,300 farmers reached under Climate and Environmental Activities through smart agriculture training and input distribution.
	340,366 people reached through Disaster Risk Reduction activities.
	2211 people trained in First Aid.
	18512 feedback collected.

People Anticipate, Respond to and Quickly Recover from Crisis

Disaster Management & Emergence Response

In 2024, Zambia Red Cross Society (ZRCs) continued with its critical DRM role, in ensuring that people in Zambia anticipate, respond to and quickly recover from crisis. With the country grappling with hunger and food security, ZRCs provided much needed support to help affected Communities meet their acute food needs, initially reaching out to 2,000 households in Sioma District in Western Province, complementing Government efforts in alleviating hunger.



Figure 2: Beneficiaries receiving cash assistance in Sioma

We extended our support to other districts affected by drought that included Sinazongwe and Chikankata providing the much-needed cash support for families to access food needs at household level. With support from International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (IFRC), Czech Republic, and ECHO PPP, more than 11,094 households benefited through cash assistance programme for four months. This went a long way in mitigating the impact of drought in these districts and enabled families to meet essential needs following drought conditions declared as a national disaster. This program not only supported livelihoods but also strengthened community resilience.



Figure 3&4: Beneficiaries receiving cash assistance in Chikankata District

Working with Disaster Mitigation and Management Unit (DMMU), and in ensuring people recover from crisis, the NS came to the aid of 170 households who were affected by outbreak of fire in Monze District in Southern Province, by enhancing sanitation through construction of 25 temporal toilets to prevent the outbreak of water borne diseases, in the after math of the disaster, especially in a context where existing sanitation, infrastructure had been destroyed. This was complemented by community sensitization on hygiene practices and safe water usage, ensuring immediate relief and long-term resilience in the affected community.



Figure 5: Destruction of a household in Nyimba Island in Monze District

Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction

Adapting to the 2023/2024 drought, the NS, working with the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, trained 62 lead farmers in Climate Smart Agriculture, who rolled out the knowledge and skill to 575 other Farmers in Sinazongwe. The 575 Farmers were further supported with Climate smart agriculture inputs that included accra seeds, maize, cowpeas, fertilizer, sprayers and insecticides. This contributed and revitalized local food security and household income.

The NS continued to strengthen its internal structures and stakeholders as part of readiness, preparedness and anticipatory action through flood simulation. Working with other partners, that included DMMU, Flood Anticipatory Action Simulation was conducted in Monze District, Southern Province, aimed to help communities prepare for potential floods, and testing proactive response mechanisms. The exercise was key in testing our readiness and measuring our capacity to respond to flood disasters.



To further strengthen disaster preparedness through pre-positioning of key non-food items (NFI), the NS strategically constructed a Provincial warehouse in Choma District through the ECHO PPP Project. Pre-positioning of NFI's is critical for efficient and effective response by ensuring that essential supplies are readily available in disaster-prone areas. This approach minimizes logistical delays, mitigates supply chain disruptions, and enhances accessibility for affected communities.



Figure 6 & 7: Community leaders during flood simulation in Monze District

Spreading its reach with pre-paredness interventions, the NS, working in collaboration with DMMU, rolled out the stock prepositioning strategy, through strategic placement of regional storage containers in six sites, in Mkushi, Chibombo, Kapiri Mposhi, Kaoma, Sioma and Mongu districts. This approach ensures timely assistance to vulnerable populations during crises, especially floods, and epidemics.



Figure 8: ZRCS staff during inspection of the Choma warehouse before commissioning



Figure 9: Storage container in Kaoma District

Population Movement and Protection Support

Through support from The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Restoring Family Links program continued strengthening protection in the refugee settlements in Mantapala and Meheba, minimizing the dangers to which they are exposed, putting a stop to and prevent harmful behaviors, advocating for their rights and amplifying their voices. In 2024, the NS advanced the uptake and adoption of the RedSafe Digital Humanitarian Platform in Mantapala and Meheba Refugee settlements, with 65,644 refugees reached in the two camps for quick reporting and follow up.



Fig 10 & 11, Volunteers conducting community sensitization in Mantapala



Fig 12: Billboard at Makeni Transit Camp

People Lead Safe, Healthy and Dignified Lives and Have Opportunities to Thrive

Health Emergency Response

In 2024, the NS continued supporting the government in responding to Cholera outbreak in various districts that included Lusaka, Kabwe, Ndola, Kitwe, Chilanga, Kafue and Chongwe. In coordination with the Ministry of Health, our volunteers conducted community outreach to raise awareness about cholera prevention, safe water practices, and early symptom recognition, contributing significantly to the reduction in severe cases and fatalities. Our support was coupled with setting up of Oral Rehydration Points, in high-risk areas, providing lifesaving first-line care. These ORPs offered immediate access to oral rehydration salts, helping to stabilize patients before referral to health facilities.

Our Cholera Emergency Response in 2024 supported a large-scale WASH infrastructure improvement in hotspot areas. These included rehabilitation of 16 water systems, construction of 15 waterborne toilets, drilling and solar-power equipping of 20 boreholes, and mechanization of 21 water systems. These facilities significantly improved access to safe water and sanitation in Lusaka, Ndola, Kitwe, Kabwe, Chilanga, Kafue, and Chongwe districts. Working with other partners, we continued strengthening health facilities for anticipatory action and setting strategies for future outbreaks.



Figure 13: Oral Rehydration Point during the cholera outbreak in Lusaka

IFRC Secretary General's visit to Zambia



Fig 14: IFRC SG Jargan Chapagain & ZRCS delegation pays a courtesy call to the Vice President's office



Fig 15: Honourable Minister of Health Sylvia Masebo with IFRC Secretary General Mr Jargan at Heroes Stadium

During the devastating 2024 cholera outbreak in Zambia, the IFRC Secretary General, Jargan Chapagain, visited the country to give solidarity to ZRCS and its response interventions, and amplify IFRC's commitment to controlling the epidemic, and finding lasting solutions to the cholera problem in Zambia. During his visit, Mr Chapagain had high level engagement with the public authorities, including courtesy call to the Republican Vice President and the Minister of Health, and visited the cholera center and some of the affected communities in Lusaka.



Fig 16 & 17: IFRC Secretary General Mr Jargan Chapagain with Head of Cluster (Zambia, Zimbabwe & Malawi) John Roche conducting a tour of ZRCS response during cholera outbreak at Heroes Stadium which was designated as the Cholera Treatment Centre.

Fig 18: Community sensitization on Cholera outbreak

In 2024, we continued responding to COVID-19 outbreak ensuring people live safe and healthy lives. With support from the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), our support focused on COVID-19 vaccination campaigns across four target districts including Mazabuka and Lusaka, utilizing culturally appropriate and community-driven approaches to increase vaccine uptake. The project successfully reached a total of 1,077,054, Community members, with the vaccine, in partnership with local Health facilities, in the designated areas. Through our door-to-door sensitization, mobile outreach, engagement with traditional and religious leaders, and information dissemination via local radio, the initiative successfully addressed vaccine hesitancy and improved community trust in public health interventions. These efforts contributed to a notable increase in vaccination coverage, particularly among hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations.

The NS was also handy in responding to the outbreak of anthrax in the Country. Working in collaboration with Zambia National Public Health Institute, and the Ministry of Health (MoH,) team in Lumezi, Kazangula, Sesheke and Sinazongwe, we supported communities with training and management of Hot Spots for the outbreak.



Figure 19 & 20: Health workers vaccinating the public in Mazabuka District

Health and Care Developmental Initiatives

Beyond Health emergency responses, ZRCS was also engaged in health and care developmental projects that aimed at sustainably improving Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and wellbeing through integrated Maternal Neonatal Child Health (MNCH), WASH in various communities of Lusangazi district in Eastern Province. With support from the Netherlands Red Cross, we implemented the Community Based Health Care and Resilience II (CBHR II) Project through which we constructed one maternity Annex.



Figure 21: Newly commissioned maternity annex in Lusangazi District

Zambia Red Cross continued its mandate in ensuring young people lead safe and healthy and dignified lives and live in space where they can thrive through our social mobilization initiative and ensuring under the age of two, are vaccinated. With support from American Red Cross, the 5-PP project continued to support Kabwe communities on social mobilization, sharing information about the available services at health facilities.



Figure 22: ZRCS and AmCross staff planning the implementation in Kabwe



Figure 23: Beneficiaries (pupils) receiving school items in Kapiri Mposhi District

With support from IFRC and Japanese Red Cross Society, the NS officially launched phase four of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Program. The initiative is being implemented in close collaboration with key government ministries, including the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and the Ministry of Education. This phase focused on strengthening child protection, improving access to education, psychosocial support, and enhancing household livelihoods for over 200 vulnerable families. The program continues to promote a multi-sectoral response to ensure the holistic well-being of OVCs across targeted communities by distributing books, shoes and other school materials.

To enhance adolescent health, the NS also implemented the Adolescent Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights (ASHR) Project, with funding from the Global fund, through the Ministry of Health. The initiative disseminated findings and lessons learned to various relevant stakeholders, aimed at informing future programming and reinforcing collaborative efforts in the health sector especially working with adolescent and sexual reproductive health and rights.



Figure 24: ASHR project implementation team in Chililabombwe District



Fig 25: Solar powered reticulation systems, erected and supporting agriculture in Kapiri Mposhi

Developmental WASH is one of the key components that we contribute to which is essential for the health and well-being of communities. In 2024, the NS continued with WASH programming in Kapiri Mposhi ensuring Communities have access to clean and safe water which is important in the prevention of diseases like cholera and diarrhea. Our support extended to rural primary and secondary schools in the districts that we contribute to which is essential for the health and well-being of communities.

National Society Development

Small Acts in a Greater Way

In 2024, the NS had a total of 8,370 Volunteers, and amongst these, some were instrumental in community mobilization in responding to emergencies. Volunteers like Willen Mujala (Sinazongwe Branch) exemplified the dedication and service spirit of ZRCS while being instrumental in community support. A trained qualified National Disaster Response Volunteer who is a pillar when disaster strikes.

Through Branches, our volunteers embody a profound gesture of compassion and solidarity, serving as the "heart" of a global movement that aims to prevent and alleviate human suffering, often acting as a bridge between crisis and hope. In Lusaka, led by the ZRCS Branch President, the branch donated groceries, toiletries, and cash to a 60-year-old woman living with a disability in Kamanga Compound, Lusaka. This was a quiet gesture of care, representing a commitment to humanity.



Figure 26: Show Mutendere East Volunteer Aid Unit (VAU) leader, Muloyi Banda, representing the Zambia Red Cross Society Lusaka Branch President, hands over essential household items to Mrs. Lita Phiri in Kamanga Compound, Lusaka.



Figure 27: ZRCS Volunteer Willen Mujala

Governance

In ensuring we remain relevant to our mission and mandate, the NS held its 39th National Elective Council in Chongwe District. This meeting reviewed the Society's performance and elected a new Board, with Mr. Martin Ng'onga as National President, with nine other leaders taking up governance positions. This leadership transition is expected to further strengthen ZRCS's humanitarian impact nationwide.



Figure 28: ZRCS and NLRC delegates during the National Council Meeting in Lusaka District

The NS has been instrumental in raising awareness about the importance of proper hand hygiene in preventing diseases. Washing hands with soap is one of the most effective and affordable ways to reduce the spread of infections, including diarrhea, respiratory illnesses, and COVID-19. Participating in events like this deepens the National Society engagement with the government.

Joining hands with the Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation in commemorating World Toilet Day in 2024 strengthened ZRCS ways of working with Government structures and communities and in raising awareness on sanitation across the nation.



Fig 29: Hand Washing Day in Lusaka District



Figure 30: ZRCs staff at a stand during the Toilet Day Campaign in Lusaka District

During the year, the NS took part in the commemoration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, held under the theme "Empowering the Next Generation for a Resilient Future." This showed the NSs dedication to saving lives and empowering minds while working to reduce disasters.



Figure 31: The Vice President of Zambia Mrs. Nalumango and DMMU Coordinator during the international day for disaster risk reduction in Lusaka.

Staff Team Building 2024



Fig 32, 33, 34; Staff Team building 2024 here staff tested their ability to think strategically & collaboratively during obstacle participation

At the close of 2024, staff across the country converged in Chilanga District for Team building and retreat after a hectic twelve-month period, providing a platform for reflection, re-energizing, rewarding exceptional efforts and connecting with the wider workforce.

NS Bids Farewell to Gloria Kunyenga IFRC Operations Delegate



Fig 35, 36 & 37: Gloria Kunyenga conducting field operations during her tenure ith ZRCS

As the NS ended the year, the NS also bid farewell to Ms. Gloria Kunyenga, IFRC Operations Delegate, who contributed significantly to strengthening ZRCS operations during her four-year tenure.

Cooperating Partnerships

In strengthening our response to WASH interventions in communities across Zambia, ZRCS signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WaterAid Zambia. This will also improve collaborative efforts reaching a wider focus and numbers of communities across Zambia.



Figure 38: The ZRCS Secretary General & WaterAid Country Director Yanko Mataya during the signing of the MOU in Lusaka

ZRCS cooperating partnership with LC Waikiki continues to yield positive results in supporting most vulnerable of our society. In 2024, we distributed 90 boxes of clothing and essential goods to more than 200 vulnerable individuals across NS operational communities. This partnership significantly strengthened ZRCS's humanitarian efforts by enhancing the dignity and well-being of individuals in need, particularly children, the elderly, and those affected by emergencies.



Figure 39: ZRCS receiving assorted clothing from LC Waikiki

In strengthening our collaborative partnership, ZRCS hosted key representatives from People in Need (PIN) in 2024 in a collaborative meeting to explore best ways of working together in the area of disaster management and preparedness. The discussions centered on strengthening disaster preparedness, anticipatory action and incorporating risk mapping to enhance the protection of vulnerable communities.



Figure 41: ZRCS & PIN staff in Lusaka

Funding and Resource Mobilizations

In 2024, Workplace First Aid Unit continued to post positive results, increasing income generation by 9% against the 2023 results. These results show that the unit's net income margins contributed to the National Society's humanitarian needs, remain positive. A total of 2,765 trainings was done, of which 2,211 was commercial training and 554 were non-commercial trainings.



Figure 41: ZRCSS Secretary General, Mr. Cosmas Sakala, awarding First Aid certificates to the Defense Forces after a Collaborative First Aid training with the Zambia Army.



Figure 42: A ZRCSS Workplace First Aid training session

Below is an overview of the unit's performance.

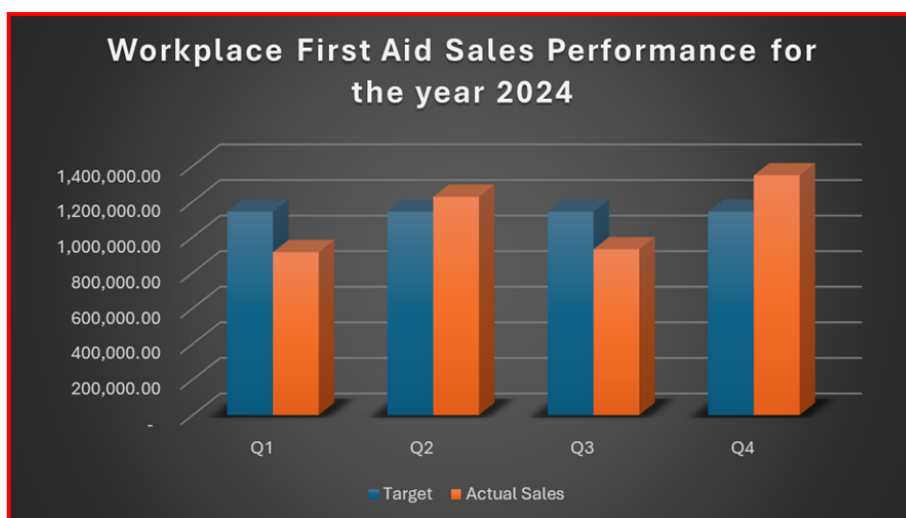


Figure 43: Workplace First Aid Quarterly Income generation for 2024

In 2024, despite The Henry Dunant Lodge turning out positive performance results for the year, the unit struggled to maintain growth in its income generation levels consistently. This had been due to its rehabilitation needs. The lodge's income generation fell 30% when compared to 2023 levels and performed below set targets, falling 34% below its monthly targets on average. Net income contribution to the NS remained positive up to the third quarter when operations were stopped to give room for the lodge's much needed renovations and upgrades. Working with various partners including the IFRC NSIA (National Society Investment Alliance) fund, the NS started the renovations of the lodge in quarter 3, of 2024. Below is a graphical image showing the lodge's performance up to its point of closure for renovations in September 2024.

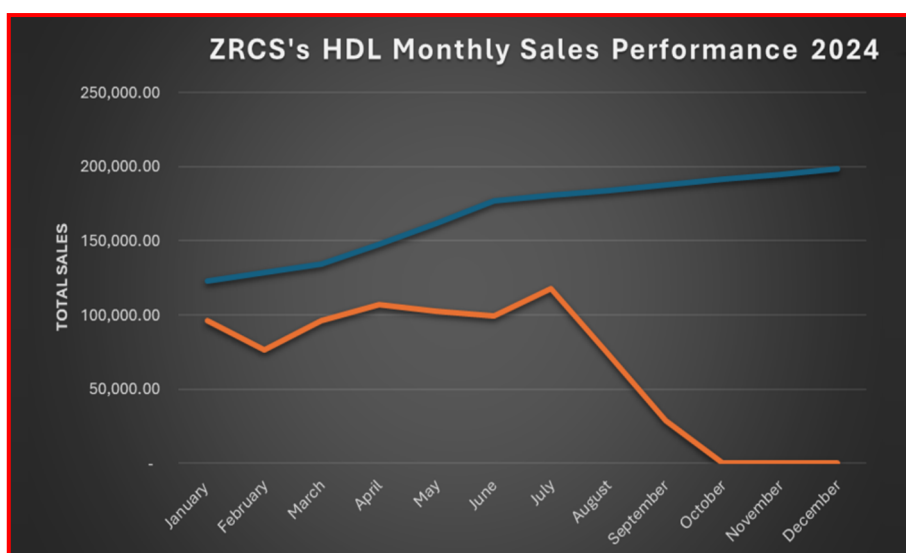




Figure 44: The Henry Dunant Lodge performance up to Q3, 2024

KEY	
	HDLL Before Closure
	HDR After Closure

Financing Humanitarian Work

The National Society received ZMW 205,000,000 in 2024 in comparison to ZMW 94,233,001.28 in 2023 and spent ZMW 169,792,000. The rise in 2024 budget was due to more emergency projects and developmental supported projects. Other income includes ZMW 1,437,774 in government subsidies, ZMW 27,000 in donations, ZMW 14,8700 in branch income, and ZMW 2,158,000 in income and refunds, which include audit and salary contributions.

INCOME	2023	2024
Income from partners	73,997,824	165,142,000
National Society income	20,235,177.28	20,125,000
Total grants and other income	94,233,001.28	185,267,000
EXPENDITURE		
Program expenses	73,997,824	165,142,000
Personnel costs	4,642,177.15	7,556,000
Administration expenses	6,760,319	179,892,000
Personnel costs	85,227,619	5,375,000
Deficit/Surplus for the year	9,005,382	5,375,000

Table 1: 2023 and 2024 comparison of income and expenditure

ZRCS Expenditure

Zambia Red Cross Society incurred administration expenses amounting to ZMW 7,194,000 in 2024 compared to ZMW 6,760,319 in 2023. The increase in administrative expenses was due to salary increment and rise in inflation. The program expense increased from ZMW 73,997,824 in 2023 to ZMW 165,142,000 in 2024 due to increased emergency programming that required implementation within stipulated period as per donor requirement.



Borehole drilling in Drought stricken area of Monze District





NDRT participants in Mazabuka District

Zambia Red Cross Society

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