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Fact Sheet:

Zambia's Agricultural Crisis and Emergency Response Nutrition Program

Overview

- **Crisis Summary:** Zambia is experiencing its driest agricultural season in over 40 years, resulting in significant crop losses, livestock deaths, and worsening poverty. Severe and moderate acute malnutrition rates among children under five are escalating.
- **Affected Population:** Approximately 9 million people across 84 of 117 districts are impacted by the drought, which has caused severe food shortages and heightened malnutrition risks.

Impact on Agriculture and Food Security

- **Rainfall Season 2023/2024:** Late onset, prolonged dry spells, and high temperatures severely impacted crop and livestock production.
- **Crop Losses:** 982,765 hectares of maize (out of 2,272,931 hectares planted) were destroyed by drought.
- **Food Insecurity:** An estimated 2,037,712 people are facing a food security crisis (IPC 3+), and 58,440 people (9,740 households) are in a food security emergency (IPC 4) between October 2023 and March 2024.

Humanitarian Impact

- **Population at Risk:** The crisis affects 14.8 million people, including 2.9 million children (0-59 months) and 1.1 million pregnant and lactating women.
- **Malnutrition Rates:** 35% of children under five are stunted, and 4% are wasted. Pregnant and lactating mothers face increased risks of anemia due to inadequate food access and rising food prices.
- **Gender-Based Risks:** Women and children are at heightened risk of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, and child marriages, threatening their health and education.

Emergency Response: Nutrition Program

- **Goal:** To improve the nutritional status and wellbeing of vulnerable children under five in affected communities across Zambia.
- **Focus Areas:** Targeted areas include Chongwe, Rufunsa, Shibuyunji, Chilanga, and Kafue districts, which are among the hardest hit.
- **Interventions:** The program will provide essential food supplements rich in iron and support therapeutic and supplementary feeding initiatives to reduce moderate and acute malnutrition.
- **Beneficiaries:** 15,117 individuals, including 11,289 children (6-59 months) and 3,828 pregnant and lactating women.
- **Screening Results:** 949 children are targeted to be linked in accessing treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), and 10,340 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).

Program Details

- **Duration:** 3-4 months
- **Budget:** KRW 1,400 / USD 356,923 / ZMK 9,316,048.03
- **Targeted Areas:** Central, Eastern, and Lusaka provinces, particularly in Kafue, Chilanga, Chongwe, and Shibuyunji districts.

Urgent Needs

- **Food Aid:** Emergency interventions are necessary to provide food aid and nutritional supplements.
- **Water and Sanitation:** Improving access to clean water and sanitation is critical to preventing further health crises.
- **Humanitarian Support:** Immediate action is required to protect women and children from the compounded risks of malnutrition and gender-based violence.

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