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A health worker demonstrating ORS preparation at Lusaka's Chilenje Market. © UNICEF Zambia/2024/Mwenya

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UNICEF ZAMBIA CHOLERA response FLASH UPDATE

HIGHLIGHTS

As Cholera cases continues to rise in the country, UNICEF has been working with the Government of the Republic of Zambia and the different line ministries and agencies involved in the cholera response, and with the United Nations to respond to the crisis. UNICEF Zambia Response focuses on interventions across key sectors of WASH, Health, Nutrition, Education, Child Protection and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE).

To deliver integrated multi-sectoral Cholera response, UNICEF is appealing for **US\$ 6,487,000** to sustain lifesaving services for people affected by cholera over a period of 6 months. As of 24th January 2024, UNICEF has secured 990,000 USD to cover immediate needs in the response though with a funding gap of 85 per cent. UNICEF remains grateful to all the different donors who have supported and continue to reach out to donors for more support to help meet the needs of the affected community and implement key priorities as identified by the government.

Since the declaration of Cholera outbreak in the country, UNICEF has supported government intervention to Cholera response through: Facilitation of the delivery of 1,701,112 doses of Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) for the implementation of the reactive vaccination campaign in selected high-burden Cholera hotspots, technical support through National IMS pillars: Case Management, RCCE, WASH, Surveillance, Laboratory, OCV, and logistics teams, Procured and pre-positioned 10 Tents dispatched within Lusaka Province Cholera Treatment Centers (CTCs) as per MoH needs, Delivered 30 Renewable Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) kits, accessed by the MoH through the Zambia Medicines and Medical Supplies Agency (ZAMMSA), the national warehouse and distributor of medicines.

UNICEF in partnership with the Government and other Protection partners is prioritizing the protection of children in the cholera response by facilitating community outreach support to affected families and communities through scaled up community sensitization on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Over 200 community volunteers were sensitized on PSEA and referral pathways, including the child helpline 116/933 through which children, parents, and community members can report PSEA and other child protection risks.

In collaboration with the district commissioner's office and the Zambia Red Cross Society in Lusaka, more than 600 Community Base Volunteers have been trained on Cholera prevention, these volunteers have been instrumental in sensitizing the communities on sanitation, and hygiene promotion, including chlorine distribution, water quality monitoring, disinfection, and inspections.

As a lead partner in WASH, UNICEF is working with the Government and WASH service providers in reducing the cholera risk factors with the aim of stopping the transmission, with a geographical priority in the cholera hotspots of Lusaka but with close monitoring and extended services to other part of the country. UNICEF will focus on ensuring the population in locations with clusters of cases has access to safely managed water through Improving safe water through water quality monitoring, coordination, and remediation actions, Strengthening WASH aspects of multi-disciplinary interventions, and Supporting WASH and Infection Prevent Control in schools and Cholera Treatment Center/Units and healthcare facilities through assessments, action planning, procurement, training, and technical assistance.

UNICEF will Continue to use a holistic approach by strengthening emergency preparedness, building local and national capacities, and providing technical expertise for child-sensitive, gender-informed, innovative, and disability-inclusive humanitarian action. Priority will be for life saving interventions in districts affected by Cholera.

For more information, please visit: www.unicef.org/appeals

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