

CEO DECISION MEMO

DATE 10/02/2024

TO: Laura Frigenti, CEO	
SUBJECT: Approval of Zambia’s Accelerated Funding Grant	
Country	Zambia
System transformation grant allocation	US\$31,550,000
Allocation requested (XX%)	US\$6,310,000 (20% of the STG total allocation)
Allocation recommended by Secretariat	US\$6,310,000 ¹
Results based financing	No
Grant agent	Save the Children US
Agency fee (% and amount)	US\$441,700 (7%)
Period	10 months
Expected start date	October 1, 2024
Closing date	July 31, 2025
Funding source	GPE Accelerated Funding only

Action Request

Approve an allocation from GPE trust funds for an Accelerated Funding (AF), in support of the Zambia Drought Response – School Feeding program, as described in the application submitted and summarized in Table above, subject to:

- a) Availability of funds.
- b) Board decision BOD/2012/11-04 on commitment of trust funds for grants in annual installments.

Grant Summary

In February 2024, President Hichilema declared a national emergency after drought caused an estimated 50 percent crop loss across the country leaving 6.6 million people in 84 of Zambia’s 116 districts in need of short- and medium-term humanitarian assistance. The drought has impacted school attendance, which in turn is affecting learning. The proposed ten-month grant focuses on providing school meals to over 895,000 children across 15 drought-affected districts in Zambia. The AF proposal is in alignment with Zambia’s 8th National Development Plan (2022–2026), which aims to scale up school feeding to all districts. It is also aligned with Zambia’s National Drought Response Plan (2024), Zambia’s Partnership Compact and it builds upon Zambia’s current school feeding program, Home Grown School Meals. 83 per cent of program funding will go directly to the procurement of food items for school meals (maize, pulses and cooking oil) with additional support to schools to promote good hygiene practices. The program includes training to School Health and Nutrition committees in improved hygiene and school feeding practices, installing handwashing stations, and

¹ This amount includes \$536,025.01 for grant agent implementation support costs.

providing good hygiene practices materials. The GA has installed safeguarding measures around the activities including training and orientation awareness sessions on safeguarding, gender, inclusion, sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) to School Health and Nutrition committees and learners along with the introduction of a complaints and feedback mechanism.

Current Portfolio

Zambia currently has one active ESPIG.

Grant	Amount	Grant Agent	Closing date	Latest Rating
ESPIG-MLT	US\$39.8m	World Bank	Oct 31, 2025	Moderately Satisfactory (June 2024)

The ongoing ESPIG-MLT, which started implementation in December 2021, was designed to improve equitable access to quality learning conditions in early childhood education (ECE) in targeted areas, expand ECE facilities with community engagement in targeted areas, develop and implement ECE quality standards, and enhance the delivery of quality early learning and care. Despite substantial delays in the first two years, the implementation has gained momentum since late 2023, with the start of ECE centers’ construction and the completion of the ECE National Quality Standards (NQS) and Quality Early Learning Environment and Resources (QELER) tool. The disbursement is US\$11.7 million (30%) as of the end of June 2024.

Eligibility

Zambia is eligible of up to US\$6.31 million as per GPE Accelerated Funding Guidelines.

Significant Opportunities

The program presents an opportunity to provide critical support to drought affected children throughout Zambia by building on and scaling up Zambia's Homegrown School Meals program. The program also allows for collaboration with various partners through the Education in Emergencies cluster co-chaired by the Ministry of Education, UNICEF and Save the Children as the Secretariat including UNHCR, UNWFP, Mary's Meal(s), and other stakeholders.

Significant Issues and Risks

The program identifies six major risks, four of which are directly related to the delivery of school feeding, such as risks related to food quality, inappropriate cooking practices posing health risks, food spoilage due to inadequate storage and delayed delivery of school feeding inputs. For these risks, adequate mitigation measures are identified, including bulk procurement, framework transportation agreements, community driven contingency plans, making available existing storage facilities and training of food handlers. SEAH risks are reviewed with due attention, focusing on risks for potential abuse and exclusion from school feeding. The SEAH risks will be addressed through 1) safeguards orientation for the School Health Nutrition

committees, 2) ongoing awareness raising to communities and children on safe and equitable delivery of the humanitarian assistance, 3) Code of Conduct for staff and vendors, and 4) setting up feedback and complaint mechanisms for reporting safeguards' violations.

Partners are encouraged to discuss ways to strengthen program sustainability - both in the context of supporting the feeding beyond the life of this program, and as part of responding to annual food security risks and the Zambia Home Grown School Feeding program.

Recommendation

The Review Meeting (RM) concluded, based on the Secretariat's quality assurance review, that the program meets the quality standards and therefore recommends to the CEO the approval of an allocation of US\$6,310,000 for Zambia's Drought Response – School Feeding Accelerated Funding program, with Save the Children US as Grant Agent.

RECOMMENDED DECISION

Grant: Accelerated Funding
Country: Zambia

CEO/2024/10-02-2024

The CEO in her delegated authority from the Board of Directors approves the Accelerated Funding request for Zambia in the amount of US\$6,310,000 plus an additional US\$441,700 in agency fees to Save the Children US as grant agent, as described in the application submitted and summarized in the table above, subject to:

- a) Availability of funds.
- b) Board decision BOD/2012/11-04 on commitment of trust funds for grants in annual installments.

Partners are encouraged to discuss ways to strengthen program sustainability - both in the context of supporting the feeding beyond the life of this program, and as part of responding to annual food security risks and the Zambia Home Grown School Feeding program.

Date: October 2, 2024



Laura Frigenti, CEO

The CEO Decision Memo should not exceed 3 pages.