
Annual Performance Report

Project/Programme title: Strengthening climate resilience of agricultural livelihoods in Agro-Ecological Regions I and II in Zambia (FP072)

Accredited Entity: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Date of Report submission: 16 April 2026

Version number V1.0



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RATIONALE

This report layout is designed to support the drafting of a structured report that assesses, evaluates, documents, and communicates the progress on Funding Proposal (FP) implementation and on its associated Funded Activity Agreement (FAA). The layout aims to provide a clear and comprehensive understanding of key objectives, progress, and risks, drawing on project implementation related data provided by Accredited Entities (AEs). Considering the Green Climate Fund's (GCF) evolving strategic direction toward a Risk-Based Approach, the report is intended to:

- Track quantitative and qualitative progress of the project implementation.
- Highlight critical findings and emerging trends.
- Identify risks and propose actionable mitigation strategies.
- Support evidence-based decision-making.
- Promote transparency and accountability.
- Align with strategic and regulatory frameworks.
- Serve as a foundation for AE engagement on project performance

METHODOLOGY

The report's layout mirrors, to the extent possible, the structure of the Funding Proposal (FP) to maintain coherence with the presented information. However, the FP and the Report differ in scope and strategic intent; thus, while the FP serves a functional role in informing the Report, it does not dictate a strictly parallel structure.

A. PROJECT DATA (Prefilled where possible)

Should any information/data prefilled from Section A.1 to Section A.12 be incorrect or require updating, please inform GCF's Project Lead of appropriate corrective action.

A.1. Date of report submission		16 April 2026											
A.2. Project or programme	Project	A.3. Sector	Public										
A.4. Total Financing (GCF + Cofinance)	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>GCF Financing</td> <td>Mill. USD 32.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grants</td> <td>Mill. USD 32.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Co-Financing</td> <td>Mill. USD 105.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grants</td> <td>Mill. USD 105.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Financing</td> <td>Mill. USD 137.3</td> </tr> </table>			GCF Financing	Mill. USD 32.0	Grants	Mill. USD 32.0	Co-Financing	Mill. USD 105.3	Grants	Mill. USD 105.3	Total Financing	Mill. USD 137.3
	GCF Financing	Mill. USD 32.0											
	Grants	Mill. USD 32.0											
	Co-Financing	Mill. USD 105.3											
	Grants	Mill. USD 105.3											
Total Financing	Mill. USD 137.3												
A.5. Total GCF funding disbursed to this date	NA (draft)												
A.6. Implementation period	From 12 October 2018 to 12 July 2027												
A.7. ESS Category (Refers to GCF revised <u>Environmental and Social Policy</u> and GCF ESS Standards to assess your FP category.)			Category B										
A.8. Executing Entity Information													
Full legal name	Country of registration (or, for intl orgs, country of HQ)	Entity type	Role in project	Focal Point(s) and email(s)									
Ministry of Agriculture	Zambia	Public sector – Government (which may be acting through a ministry or department)	Lead executing agency	Mrs. Yvonne Mpundu, Permanent Secretary, Administration E-mail: yvonne.mpundu@agriculture.gov.zm									

A.9. Co-Financier information

Full legal name	Country of registration (or, for intl orgs, country of HQ)	Focal Point(s) and email(s)	Ownership Type	Beneficial Owner(s)
Ministry of Agriculture	Zambia	Mrs. Yvonne Mpundu, Permanent Secretary, Administration E-mail: yvonne.mpundu@agriculture.gov.zm	Public sector – Government (which may be acting through a ministry or department)	Ministry of Agriculture
WARMA	Zambia	Misozi Ngulube, Acting Director General, E-mail: mngulube@warma.org.zm	Public sector – Government (which may be acting through	WARMA

Full legal name	Country of registration (or, for intl orgs, country of HQ)	Focal Point(s) and email(s)	Ownership Type	Beneficial Owner(s)
			a ministry or department)	
UNDP	United States	Nancy Bennet (nancy.bennet@undp.org), Julien Simery (julien.simery@undp.org)	UN System Entity – a specialized agency, subsidiary organ or other part of the UN system	UNDP

A.10. Alignment with country NDCs & NAP (NB Only populate if applicable, e.g., if your project/programme specifically contributes to a country's NDC or NAP target/s)

Country	Date of NDC/ NAP submission	NDC/ NAP objective	Brief description of project's alignment with NDC/ NAP objectives	Percentage of target met with proposed project. Beneficial owner(s)
Zambia	11 November 2023	The NAP aims to reduce vulnerability, enhancing adaptive capacity, building resilience, and ensuring sustainable development in the face of climate change.	The SCRALA project strongly supports Zambia's National Adaptation Plan (2023) by advancing priority areas such as climate-resilient agriculture, climate information services, water resource management, and community-level resilience. It expands the national climate information system by installing automatic weather stations, manual rain gauges, and improving dissemination systems operated by the Zambia Meteorological Department. The project also enhances climate-resilient agriculture by training farmers in conservation practices, promoting livelihood diversification—including goat rearing and beekeeping—and establishing Farmer Field Schools to strengthen adaptive capacity. Additionally, SCRALA contributes to improved water security through groundwater monitoring and the establishment of a regional water quality laboratory, directly supporting national goals for resilient water resource management.	84%

A.11. Estimated duration of impact	
A.12 Report to be shared with NDA	Yes ☐ No ☐

B. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Should any information/data prefilled in Section “B” be incorrect or require updating, please inform GCF’s Project Lead for appropriate corrective action.

B.1. Summary

The project continues to advance climate-resilient livelihoods across Agro-Ecological Regions I and II through sustained investment and strong institutional partnerships. By 2025, cumulative disbursements reached USD 26,487,318, leveraged by USD 101,661,175 in Government co-financing—reflecting high national ownership and alignment with climate adaptation priorities. To date, 794,403 direct beneficiaries (84% of the 946,153 target) have been reached through integrated interventions spanning climate information services, irrigation expansion, climate-smart agriculture, financial inclusion, and structured market systems. These investments are translating into strengthened adaptive capacity, improved productivity, and enhanced livelihood stability in drought-prone areas.

Climate risk exposure has reduced through the delivery of localized weather and agro-advisories to 342,015 farmers, 49% of whom are women. Access to timely forecasts has enabled farmers to adjust planting dates, crop choices, and input use, minimizing losses from erratic rainfall and dry spells. Reinforced by conservation agriculture and other climate-smart practices, 176,596 beneficiaries (52% women) have adopted at least one climate-resilient strategy, indicating measurable behavioural change toward long-term adaptation.

Financial resilience has deepened through 1,077 savings groups across 16 districts, mobilizing ZMW 90,216,997.20 in cumulative savings. Women’s strong participation is enhancing household shock absorption capacity, stabilizing consumption during climate-induced lean periods, and supporting investment in productive assets. Complementary small-scale irrigation investments are further reducing vulnerability to rainfall variability. In Tauya Community (Chirundu District), year-round production generated ZMW 493,100.00 in income, including ZMW 475,500.00 from 40,160 kg of bananas, demonstrating the tangible income and food security benefits of climate-resilient water access.

C. RESULTS AND IMPACTS

C.1. Overall Summary of the Project Progress

(This section provides a narrative report summarizing the overall progress of the implementation status of the funded activity progress during the reporting period. 1,500 words)

In 2025, the project accelerated adoption of climate-resilient technologies and practices across 16 districts, strengthening adaptive capacity and reducing climate risk exposure. Institutional investments in the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD) and Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) enhanced seasonal forecasting, hydrological monitoring, and early warning systems. Downscaled 2025/26 seasonal forecasts reached 148,382 farmers (52% women), enabling informed agricultural planning following the drought from previous seasons. Expanded irrigation, conservation agriculture, alternative livelihoods, financial inclusion, and market infrastructure collectively improved productivity, diversified incomes, and strengthened household resilience to climate variability.

Output 1

Hydrological and climate information systems were strengthened in 2025 through procurement of groundwater loggers, completion of designs for five gauging weirs, and 78% completion of the Water Quality Laboratory. ZMD hosted SARCOF-31, strengthening national forecasting capacity. The 2025/26 seasonal forecast was downscaled and translated into seven main local languages, reaching 148,382 farmers (77,144 i.e., women (52%) directly through agriculture extension services. Other online platforms such as television, SMS, WhatsApp, Facebook and radio were also used for broader dissemination. These actions enhanced climate-risk planning, improved early warning dissemination, and strengthened localized climate information services for smallholder farmers.

Activity 1.1: The project finalized designs for five gauging weirs and advanced the Water Quality Laboratory to 78% completion. ZMD hosted SARCOF-31, enhancing national and regional seasonal forecasting capacity for 2025/26. These actions strengthened early warning systems, improved hydrological monitoring, and enhanced institutional capacity for generating and interpreting climate data, directly supporting climate risk planning at farmer and district levels.

Activity 1.2: ZMD downscaled the 2025/26 seasonal rainfall forecast and translated it into seven local languages. Dissemination through radio, SMS, social media, and community channels reached 148,382 farmers (52% women). Forecasts indicating improved rainfall conditions supported recovery planning after the 2024/25 drought, enabling farmers to adjust planting decisions and manage seasonal climate risks effectively.

Output 2

Climate-resilient production systems expanded significantly in 2025. Two solar-powered irrigation schemes were completed in Siavonga (6 ha) and Chirundu (2 ha), while additional schemes advanced toward completion. Conservation agriculture scaled up through training of 6,762 (57% women) lead farmers and 64,477 (63% women) follow-up farmers, driving adoption of resilient practices. Alternative livelihoods strengthened diversification, with beekeeping producing 41,845.2 kg of honey valued at ZMW 2,612,242.20. These interventions enhanced year-round production, improved soil health, and reduced climate vulnerability.

Activity 2.1: Solar-powered irrigation schemes were completed in Siavonga and Chirundu, with three Luangwa schemes reaching 80% completion. FAO supported installation of 10 solar boreholes with drip systems covering 18.4 ha and benefiting 341 (48% women) farmers in Nyimba, Rufunsa and Chongwe districts. These investments strengthened year-round production, improved water access in drought-prone areas, and enhanced climate-resilient agricultural productivity like in Chirundu at the Tauya irrigation scheme where the cooperative generated ZMW 493,100.00 in income from 40.16MT banana production and other crops.

Activity 2.2: Through the Ministry of Agriculture's e-voucher system, 102,671 farmers accessed climate-smart inputs. Seed multiplication training reached 170 (41% women) farmers and strengthened 21 cooperatives. Field days sensitized 61,459 farmers (54% women) on drought-tolerant crops and diversification, strengthening adoption of resilient varieties and enhancing adaptive capacity.

Activity 2.3: The project continued to strengthen resilient agriculture practices through conservation agriculture. Accordingly, the project trained 6,762 lead farmers (57% women) and 64,477 follow-up farmers (63% women). The 2024/25 improved seasonal rainfall boosted adoption of practices through 238 demo plots, field days and agricultural shows, enhancing soil health, productivity and climate resilience despite funding-related implementation constraints.

Activity 2.4: Of the 13,676 farmers adopting climate-resilient livelihoods, 7,195 (53%) are women, reflecting strong gains in economic inclusion. These enterprises generated ZMW 6.3 million. Beekeeping produced 41,845.2 kg of honey worth ZMW 2.6 million; fish farming generated ZMW 596,984; goat rearing earned ZMW 4.3 million; and village chicken production raised ZMW 33,510. The project prioritised female-headed households and strengthened equity. Women also hold 40% of executive roles in beekeeping cooperatives and 54% in fish farming groups, advancing inclusive governance.

Activity 2.5: The project strengthened 245 Farmer Field Schools (FFS), engaging 9,187 (54% women) farmers. Six Centres of Excellence were established with solar-powered drip irrigation systems. Additionally, 140 extension staff were trained in adaptation protocols and FFS facilitation, enhancing climate-resilience service delivery across districts. The Ministry of Agriculture fully integrated the running of FFS in mainstream operations which is positive for sustainability.

Output 3

Market access and financial resilience improved through expanded aggregation infrastructure and structured linkages. Six bulking centres were completed, with additional centres nearing completion. The aggregation model linked 1,936 (49% women) farmers to structured buyers in parallel to the national Food Reserve Agency which offered competitive prices for the main maize staple. Financial inclusion expanded through 1,418 active savings groups with 40,942 members (71% women), mobilizing ZMW 24.1 million in 2025 share-outs. These interventions strengthened income stability, reduced post-harvest losses, and improved smallholder participation in climate-smart value chains.

Activity 3.1: Bulking centres were completed in Mambwe (1), Kazungula (2), Gwembe (1) and Mulobezi (2) districts, while construction in Chama and Mafinga districts were near completion at 70% and 90% respectively. It is expected that these facilities reduce post-harvest losses, improve storage and aggregation capacity, and enhance farmers' access to structured markets, strengthening income stability amid climate variability.

Activity 3.2: Aggregation activities expanded in 2025 following a strong agricultural season, improving market access for smallholder farmers, especially women. Eighty Micro Aggregators participated—31% women—with Kazungula rising to 27 aggregators from 17 in 2024, showing progress in women's inclusion and recovery from drought. Through these structures, 1,936 farmers sold produce, 49% of them women supplying diverse crops, raising ZMW72,665,817.00. The Food Reserve Agency set a maize price of ZMW 340 per 50kg bag for 2025/2026, offering a secure market and attracting more farmers to sell directly to FRA.

Activity 3.3: Financial inclusion improved through 1,418 savings groups with 40,942 members, 71% of them women. Active groups saved ZMW 24.1 million in 2025, a 19.3% increase from 2024, boosting household resilience. The project advanced formalisation by linking 249 groups to financial institutions, while 80 accessed services through Vision Fund, expanding women's economic opportunities. A multi-stakeholder workshop held by WFP highlighted gender gaps in climate information and insurance access, leading to recommendations for gender-responsive climate services and more inclusive insurance systems.

Activity 3.4: The project improved market awareness for climate-resilient products by sensitising 30,582 farmers (15,482, i.e., 51% women), increasing knowledge of resilient crops and climate-smart value chains. A value-chain study by WFP showed high post-harvest losses—especially in maize, beans and groundnuts—and very low adoption of hermetic storage technologies due to cost and limited awareness, disproportionately affecting women. Recommendations included stronger gender-responsive training, affordable technologies and improved extension support. The project also supported market reforms and established 448 school gardens to scale up nutrition education.

C.2. Performance against the Funding Proposal Logical Framework Indicators

For each of the indicators please report only the 'annual value' for the reporting year; this means reporting solely the values achieved from January 1st, 2025, to December 31st, 2025. The "cumulative value" will automatically be updated by the system by aggregating reported annual values since project FAA effectiveness.

Please ensure that targets are clearly defined and reported using the following categories:

- *Midterm Target: The results to be achieved by the midpoint of implementation.*
- *Final Target: The results to be achieved by the conclusion of project or programme implementation.*
- *Lifetime Target: The total results expected over the entire operational period of the project or programme.*

Note that the baseline, midterm, final and lifetime targets will be prefilled based on your previous Annual Performance Report and/or Funding Proposal. It is imperative that you carefully review, verify and update where relevant.

Should the project be Multicounty, please report the achievement by Country.

Lastly, avoid using commas or periods as thousand separators. Periods should only be used as decimal separators.

For REDD+ Results-Based Payment (RBP) projects, you are only required to report on the progress of activities.

Should any prefilled information/data in the Logical Framework be incorrect or require updating, please inform GCF's Project Lead for appropriate corrective action.

GCF Outcome Level: Standardized Indicators

PMF/IRMF Results Management Framework

No indicators/questions defined.

(PMF) A1 and A2 Total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached						
Provide the total number of direct beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by result area.						
Unit						No. of Beneficiaries
Disaggregation by: Result Areas (Adaptation)	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Livelihoods of people and communities	112,000	636,961	946,153	738,656	55,747	794,403

(PMF) A1 and A2 Total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached						
Provide the total number of direct beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by Gender.						
Unit						No. of Beneficiaries
Disaggregation by: Gender	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Male	56,000	324,850	482,538	365,953	26,650	392,603
Female	56,000	312,111	463,615	372,703	29,097	401,800

(PMF) A1 and A2 Total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached						
Provide the total number of direct beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by Country.						
Unit						No. of Beneficiaries
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Zambia	112,000	636,961	946,153	738,656	55,747	794,403

(PMF) A1 and A2 Total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached						
Provide the total number of indirect beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by result area.						
Unit						No. of Beneficiaries
Disaggregation by: Result Areas (Adaptation)	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Livelihoods of people and communities	0	2,019,634	3,000,000	2,342,082	176,759	2,518,841

(PMF) A1 and A2 Total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached Provide the total number of indirect beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by Gender.



(PMF) A1 and A2 Total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (IRMF) Core 2 Direct and indirect beneficiaries reached						
Provide the total number of indirect beneficiaries (female/male) cumulatively receiving adaptation benefits from GCF-supported interventions, disaggregated by Country.						
Unit						No. of Beneficiaries
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Zambia	0	2,019,634	3,000,000	2,342,082	176,759	2,518,841

No indicators/questions defined.

(PMF) A1.2 Number of males and females benefiting from the adoption of diversified, climate resilient livelihood options (including fisheries, agriculture, tourism, etc.) (IRMF) Supplementary 2.1 Beneficiaries (female/male) adopting improved and/or new climate-resilient livelihood options						
Provide the total number of direct beneficiaries (female/male) adopting diversified or strengthened climate-resilient livelihood strategies (including agriculture, fisheries, natural resource–based, and informal livelihoods), disaggregated by country.						
Unit						Enter unit
Disaggregation by: Project Countries	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Zambia	112,000	636,961	946,153	738,656	55,747	794,403

No indicators/questions defined.

(PMF) A2.2 Number of food secure households (in areas/periods at risk of climate change impacts) (IRMF) Supplementary 2.2 Beneficiaries (female/male) with improved food security
Provide the total number of direct beneficiaries (female/male) with improved or sustained food security through enhanced physical, social, and economic access to, and utilization of, food and nutrition in areas at risk of climate change, disaggregated by gender.

Unit						No. of Beneficiaries
Disaggregation by: Gender	Baseline	Mid-term	Final target	Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value
Male	0	36,000	94,200	0	0	0
Female	0	24,000	62,800	0	0	0

Project Specific Indicators							
Indicator	Unit	Baseline	Target		Previous Year Cumulative Value	Annual value	Cumulative Value <i>(automatically calculated)</i>
			Mid-term	Final target			
Number of farmers adopting new agricultural practices and alternative livelihoods	No. of Farmers	33,898	100,000	207,510	265,117	243,162	508,279
Area (ha) of agriculture land made more resilient to climate change through changed agricultural practices (e.g. planning times new and resilient native varieties, efficient irrigation schemes adopted).	Hectares	82	800	2,700	153,100	5,018	158,118
Percentage increase in agricultural incomes in the project sites	Percentage	0	35	70	62	11	73
Percentage of households accessing financial education programmes related to credit and insurance schemes	Percentage	14	20	50	29	0	29
Percentage of population with access to improved climate information, weather and agricultural advisories (disaggregated by gender)	Percentage	20	52	62	33	14	47
Percentage of resilient commodities produced by target farmers that are sold on the markets	Percentage	26	40	80	75	0	75
Percentage of smallholder farmers demonstrating knowledge to plan for and manage climate risk to support resilient agricultural production disaggregated by gender	Percentage	3	45	90	43	3	46
Perception of targeted populations on the timeliness, content and reach of weather, agricultural and water advisories	Percentage	32	30	70	53	2	55

Activities				
Activity Name	Implementation Progress (%)	Utilised GCF Budget	Allocated GCF Budget	% (Automatically calculated)
Output 1 Smallholder farmers are able to plan for and manage water resources to support resilient-agricultural production	78	4,302,005.72	5,238,885.3	82
Output 2 Resilient agricultural livelihoods in the face of changing rainfall, increasing drought and occasional floods	78	14,403,331.86	19,394,474.65	74
Output 3 Increasing farmers' access to markets and commercialization of resilient agricultural products	83	5,261,769.09	5,875,022.05	89
Project Management Costs	88	1,319,221.19	1,491,618	88

C.2.1. Subprojects							
<i>Where applicable, include information on sub-projects. For projects and programmes approved until B.31, the logical framework should focus on the mitigation and adaptation Performance Measurement Frameworks (PMF). For projects and programmes approved from B.32 onwards, the logical framework should reflect the Integrated Results Management Framework (IRMF).</i>							
Title	Currency	GCF Funds	Co-Financing	Country	GHG Emissions Reduced	Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
C.3. Compliance with FAA covenants				Yes ☒ No ☐			
N/A							
C.4. Funded Activity Implementation Arrangements in the Following Year				Yes ☐ No ☒			

N/A

D. RISKS ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT

D.1. Risk and mitigation measures

As stated in the Board-approved "Risk Appetite Statement," a cornerstone of the GCF's Risk Framework is proactive risk management. This includes risk identification, assessment, monitoring, reporting and appropriate mitigation to minimize and respond to risks, both directly and through partners implementing GCF's projects and programmes.

Risk Management Matrix

A risk is the probability of an event to adversely affect the achievement of the project Impact (its objectives, outcomes, and results). "Inherent risk" refers to the level of risk present before any of the mitigating measures are applied. "Residual risk" represents the level of risk after mitigating measures have been implemented.

Please update the project risk matrix by reviewing and revising information for all previously identified risks, and adding any new risks identified during implementation by selecting the adequate Risk Area in the drop-down menu. For each risk, ensure you provide a clear risk description, outline the potential negative consequences, specify the mitigating measures in place, and complete the severity scoring as required.

For the Integrity Risk Area, an annual reporting (and more frequent and prompt reporting if stated in the legal agreements with the GCF) is required for each of its 3 Risk Sub-areas, as GCF has zero tolerance for Prohibited Practices, for SEAH in Fund-related Activities, and for working with parties and engaging in activities subject to sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council. The AE reporting obligations under GCF's policies and in the legal agreement(s) with the GCF include but are not limited to requiring AEs to take action to identify, mitigate and promptly disclose to the GCF any real or perceived Conflict of Interest, any alleged or suspected Prohibited Practice, promptly notify the Fund of any material risks or other indications of money laundering and/or financing of terrorism in relation to the Project and promptly take remedial steps in consultation with the GCF.

The AE shall also provide updates on the risks and mitigating measures under the other Risk Areas when changes to already identified risks or new risks have been identified.

Risk scoring:

For likelihood, please rate on a scale from 1 to 5: 1. Unlikely, 2. Possible, 3. Likely, 4. Almost certain, 5. Certain

For impact, please rate on a scale from 1 to 5: 1. Close to none, 2. Low, 3. Medium, 4. High, 5. Catastrophic

The severity of each risk is automatically computed based on the likelihood and impact of the risk.

Risk 1	Climate Change & Disaster Risk		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Environmental and Social		
Risk Sub-area	Environmental and Social Safeguards		
Description	The project faces increased environmental and social risks arising from climate change and climate variability, which continue to affect agricultural production in Zambia. Key factors include unpredictable rainfall patterns, prolonged dry spells, and increased frequency of extreme weather events. These conditions heighten the vulnerability of farming communities and may reduce project effectiveness if not managed adequately. Root causes include systemic exposure to climate hazards, limited access to accurate weather information, and insufficient adaptive capacity among smallholder farmers. Without timely climate advisories and adaptive planning, the project beneficiaries may be unable to make informed decisions regarding crop selection, planting schedules, and livestock management.		
Consequences	The project supports the production of seasonal weather forecasts through the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD) and the preparation of Weather-Agro advisories in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture. These advisories help farmers plan effectively for the farming season, particularly for the October–March period. By improving access to timely, reliable climate information, the likelihood and impact of climate related losses are reduced. Forecasting enables selection of appropriate crop varieties, early detection of livestock disease risks, and informed decisions on planting timelines. With these mitigation measures, the residual risk level is lowered from Medium to Low.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	3 - Likely	3 - Medium	9 - Medium High
Mitigation Measure(s)	Ensuring project designs factors in occurrences of floods and droughts		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity

	2 - Possible	2 - Low	4 - Medium
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	2 - Low	4 - Medium
Comments	N/A		
Risk 2	Delayed Project Implementation		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Financial		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	The project implementation was delayed in 2025 due to lack of project funding received throughout the year from the donor. As such the implementing districts had limited project activity implementation.		
Consequences	The lack of funding in 2025 led to the delay in implementation of project activities.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	3 - Likely	3 - Medium	9 - Medium High
Mitigation Measure(s)	Government co-financing played a critical role in sustaining community-level activities, as extension services were delivered alongside mainstream Ministry of Agriculture programs and input support initiatives such as the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP). Through the FAO Emergency Fund Project, an additional USD 334,763 was invested in the construction of six solar-powered water points equipped with drip irrigation in Chongwe, Rufunsa, Gwembe, Kazungula, Sesheke, and Mulobezi, as well as six demonstration sites showcasing climate-smart technologies in Luangwa, Nyimba, Mambwe, Chama, Sioma, and Namwala. These investments not only enhanced immediate productivity but also strengthened the long-term sustainability of adaptive practices by promoting low-cost, renewable-energy irrigation solutions and building local capacity to adopt climate-resilient technologies. Furthermore, the project received an extension approval from the GCF in November 2025, unlocking the sixth disbursement to support continued implementation of activities in 2026 and ensuring uninterrupted progress toward sustainable climate resilience outcomes.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	3 - Medium	3 - Low
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	3 - Medium	3 - Low
Comments	N/A		
Risk 3	Labour and Working Conditions Risk		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Environmental and Social		
Risk Sub-area	Environmental and Social Safeguards		
Description	There is a risk that the workers and communities are exposed to occupation and health hazards The project construction works present several Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) risks, primarily associated with the nature of physical construction activities. The root causes of these risks generally stem from gaps in safety planning and oversight, insufficient site supervision, lack of proper personal protective equipment (PPE), inadequate training for workers, and failure to follow established safety procedures. Additional contributing factors may include poor site organization, pressure to meet timelines, and limited risk assessments prior to commencing construction activities. Together, these conditions increased the likelihood of accidents and unsafe working environments.		
Consequences	Exposure to occupational and health hazards on construction sites can cause worker injuries, illnesses, and accidents, while nearby communities may face traffic risks, dust, and noise. Such incidents can trigger work delays, regulatory penalties, increased costs, and community grievances, ultimately damage the project's reputation and reducing stakeholder's trust.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	3 - Likely	3 - Medium	9 - Medium High
Mitigation Measure(s)	- Induction of contractors on the ESMP management actions - Ensuring that the contractors have OHS plans to ensure workers safety are safeguarded. - Robust monitoring of the contractors on site		

	• Mandatory use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) • Ensuring that the contractor maintains valid workers' compensation certificates and adequate insurance coverage for all personnel engaged in the construction works. • Continuous workers engagement and training on EHS		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	2 - Low	2 - Low
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	2 - Low	2 - Low
Comments	N/A		
Risk 4	High Turn over of government staff		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Design and Implementation		
Risk Sub-area	N/A		
Description	High staff turnover of government extension staff, driven by staff transfers and staff redeployments, hinder the retention of institutional knowledge, technical skills, and continuity of services .		
Consequences	This has weakened implementation capacity, reduced effectiveness of extension services, and loss of long-term learning and relationships with target communities. These changes disrupt continuity and skill retention within the project.		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	2 - Possible	3 - Medium	6 - Medium
Mitigation Measure(s)	• Developing training manuals, and knowledge repositories within districts. • Conduct periodic refresher training to ensure skills are retained despite staff changes. • Engage senior government management to improve coordination on staff deployment and advocate for continuity in key technical positions where feasible. • Joint supervision, mentoring, and peer learning mechanisms to enable rapid handover when transfers occur.		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	2 - Low	2 - Low
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	2 - Low	2 - Low
Comments	N/A		
Risk 5	Money Laundering (ML) & Terrorist Financing (TF)		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Integrity		
Risk Sub-area	Money Laundering (ML) & Terrorist Financing (TF)		
Description	NA		
Consequences	NA		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	1 - None	1 - Low
Mitigation Measure(s)	NA		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	1 - None	1 - Low
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	1 - None	1 - Low
Comments	N/A		
Risk 6	Sanctions		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Integrity		
Risk Sub-area	Sanctions		
Description	NA		
Consequences	NA		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	1 - None	1 - Low
Mitigation Measure(s)	NA		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity

	1 - Unlikely	1 - None	1 - Low
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	1 - None	1 - Low
Comments	N/A		
Risk 7	Fraud, Bribery, Corruption and Collusion		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Integrity		
Risk Sub-area	Fraud / Bribery & Corruption / Collusion and any other prohibited practice		
Description	NA		
Consequences	NA		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	1 - None	1 - Low
Mitigation Measure(s)	NA		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	1 - None	1 - Low
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	1 - None	1 - Low
Comments	N/A		
Risk 8	Conflict of Interest		
Risk Origin	Project Related		
Risk Area	Integrity		
Risk Sub-area	Conflict of interest		
Description	NA		
Consequences	NA		
Inherent Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	1 - None	1 - Low
Mitigation Measure(s)	NA		
Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	1 - None	1 - Low
Current Residual Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Severity
	1 - Unlikely	1 - None	1 - Low
Comments	N/A		

D.2. Report risk incidents

If any risk (previously identified or not) has materialized, please capture it here as a risk incident.

(this section is confidential)

E. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

E.1. GCF financing

In addition to the financial report in the annex, update the table with relevant GCF financial data for each country and instrument, including amounts and allocation percentages.

Country	Instrument	Currency (as per FAA)	Committed Amount	Disbursed Amount	Expenditure (reporting year)	Cumulative Expenditure	Mitigation	Adaptation
Zambia	Grants	USD	32,000,000	29,492,906	2,234,997.44	25,286,327.86	0%	100%
Total		USD	32,000,000	29,492,906	2,234,997.44	25,286,327.86	N/A	N/A

E.2. Co-financing

Please populate the table with relevant Co-financing data for each Co-financier and instrument, including amounts and allocation percentages.

Co-financier	Instrument	Currency (as per FAA)	Committed Amount	Disbursed Amount	Expenditure (reporting year)	Cumulative Expenditure	Mitigation	Adaptation
Ministry of Agriculture	In-kind	USD	103,869,000	101,681,056.89	3,810,602.05	101,681,056.89	0%	100%
Total		USD	103,869,000	101,681,056.89	3,810,602.05	101,681,056.89	N/A	N/A

E.3. Additional Finance Mobilised Beyond Approved Co-financing

Report the realised (cumulative value) and/or expected volume (Final Target) of private/public finance leveraged as a result of GCF involvement in the investment, in addition to and beyond any co-financing originally committed at approval. This datapoint shall be reported separately from official co-financing figures and is intended to capture the catalytic effect of GCF investments and support institutional learning.

GCF Policy: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/policy-cofinancing.pdf>

Institution Type (public/private)	Instrument	Currency	Cumulative Value	Final Target (estimation)
Public	In-kind	USD	71,544,223.87	71,544,223.87
Total		USD	71,544,223.87	71,544,223.87

File Name: PIMS 5858_APR_2025_Grant-Financial Progress Detail_cleared 15 April 2026.xlsx

F. ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS, GENDER, and INDIGENOUS PEOPLES	
<i>This section provides an update against the ESS standards agreed as part of the Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), as well as Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS), Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), Indigenous Peoples Plan Framework (IPPF), Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) when applicable.</i>	
F.1. progress on key challenges and updates regarding Environmental and Social Safeguards	
Key Environmental and Social Changes <i>Have there been any changes in the key environmental and social risks and impacts? If you tick 'Yes,' please provide further information.</i>	Yes ☐ No ☒
Environmental and Social Safeguarding Updates <i>Have there been any change/update on environmental and social safeguarding? you tick 'Yes,' please provide further information.</i>	Yes ☐ No ☒
F.2. Compliance with laws and regulations applicable to ESS. Gender and Indigenous Peoples.	
Have there been any changes or updates regarding compliance with applicable laws and regulations of the country, as well as the relevant conditions or covenants under the FAA?	Yes ☐ No ☒
F.3. ESS standards implementation progress	
Does this reporting period include any ESS standards-related activities or updates?	Yes ☒ No ☐
<i>If you tick 'Yes', please provide further information to report on the progress made in complying with the requirements of the relevant ESS standards that were triggered during the approval of the funding proposal and during the reporting period, if any; and the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy, if relevant, describing achievement and specifying details outlined in the tables below.</i>	
Activities implemented during the reporting period, including monitoring	

During this reporting period, several Environmental and Social Standards (ESS)—related activities were undertaken, closely aligned with the ongoing construction activities. These included: • Review and verification of site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) implementation, focusing on adherence to mitigation measures and contractor compliance requirements. • Disclosure of the Project developed ESMPs (irrigation schemes, and bulking centres) to stakeholders, Shared the ESMP documents through stakeholder communication channels, ensuring transparency and alignment with the project's disclosure requirements procedures. • Training of the UNDP SES requirements and project ESMP to contractors • Monitoring of contractor environmental and social performance, with particular emphasis on compliance with agreed environmental safeguards, labour standards, and waste management practices. • Monitoring of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) compliance, accompanied by follow-up actions on community health and safety measures to ensure safe working environments and minimize risks to surrounding communities. • Quarterly updates of the SES risk register, including screening of ongoing and upcoming project activities to ensure timely identification, assessment, and treatment of environmental and social risks. • Tracking and documentation of project grievances, ensuring all concerns raised by project-affected persons or stakeholders are recorded, assessed, and addressed in accordance with the project's grievance redress mechanism.

Outputs during the reporting period

The following key outputs were achieved in relation to the implementation of ES: • Enhanced Implementation of ESMP Measures: -Verified contractors' adherence to required SES requirements, resulting in updated compliance findings and corrective actions where necessary. • Strengthened ESMP Disclosure and Stakeholder Engagement; -ESMP disclosure improved clarity for project-affected persons and stakeholders. • Continuous Monitoring of Environmental and Social Performance:- regular monitoring of contractor performance across environmental and social indicators, including waste management, labour conditions, and community interactions; Documented non-compliances and issued recommendations for corrective measures, followed by tracking of contractors' progress in implementation; Monitored OHS practices at construction sites, with a focus on worker safety, use of PPE, incident reporting, and emergency preparedness.; Followed up on community health and safety measures to reduce safety risks for surrounding communities, particularly in construction zones. • Quarterly Update of SES Risk Registers: -Conducted screening of ongoing and planned construction activities for potential SES risks. No significant new risk were noted in the year, the project monitored the management of risks using the UNDP risk register. • Strengthened Grievance Management: Tracked all grievances received through the project's grievance redress mechanism; Ensured timely documentation, categorization, and follow-up on grievances, including feedback to complainants.

Key environmental, social and gender issues, risks and impacts addressed during implementation

Over-extraction of Water Resources for the irrigation schemes in Siavonga and chirundu for the solar powered irrigation schemes • Excessive use of surface or groundwater may reduce availability for domestic, agricultural, and livestock needs. • Women farmers, who often have fewer water-use rights and smaller landholdings, face reduced productivity and income loss. • Increased water scarcity intensifies household stress and workload on women and girls. Climate Change and disaster risk affecting the adopting of alternative livelihoods being promoted under activities 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3) • Occurrences of flash floods and droughts has the potential of delaying construction and undermine climate sensitive alternative livelihoods. • Reduced livelihood stability can worsen gender inequalities in communities' income, food security, and decision making. Poor suitability screening of Alternative Livelihood Activities • Inadequate screening for suitability the local communities may lead to failure of adoption of the livelihoods Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Risks related to construction works for the bulking centres and solar irrigation schemes • Construction activities pose risks of injuries, accidents, and exposure to hazardous materials. • Community members—especially women, children, and elderly—face heightened safety risks near construction zones. Labour and working condition risks. • The construction works poses potentials risks of breaching the national and international labour condition Health Risks from Open Water Storage for the fish farming being promoted • Open Fishponds, and irrigation systems increase breeding sites for mosquitoes. • Women and girls, who spend more time at water points and in irrigated fields, face greater exposure to vector-borne diseases. • Increased caregiver burden for sick household members disproportionately affects women

Any pending key environmental, social and gender issues needing accredited entity's actions and GCF attention

With fish farming being promoted as an alternative livelihood under the project, the beneficiaries need to be sensitised on safeguarding the ponds, production sites to safeguard communities safety.

Remarks/Notes

No additional notes. The ESS for the project has been followed.	
F.4. Sub-projects information	
Have any subprojects been implemented?	Yes ☐ No ☒
N/A	N/A

F.5. Implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan	
Were any actions undertaken to increase engagement of relevant stakeholders in the project, particularly regarding environmental, social, and gender elements?	Yes ☒ No ☐
Activities implemented during the reporting period	
Safeguards and Knowledge Sharing The project conducted sensitization meetings for beneficiaries and trained contractors on Grievance Redress Mechanisms in Siavonga and Chirundu. These efforts strengthened environmental and social safeguards. Additionally, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), UNDP, and FAO hosted a delegation from Eswatini in Chirundu. This exchange showcased Zambia's GCF processes and climate adaptation initiatives, boosted by coordinated social media coverage. 2025 NAP Expo At the UNFCCC NAP Expo in Lusaka (August 12–15, 2025), themed "Innovations in the NAP," the project showcased two major interventions through beneficiary presentations: - Tauya Irrigation Scheme (Chirundu): Beneficiaries highlighted a 22kW solar-powered drip irrigation system covering 20 hectares. This infrastructure mitigated drought impacts, enabling the cooperative to produce and sell 40.16 MT of bananas. By August 2025, they generated ZMW 475,500 from bananas and ZMW 17,600 from supplementary crops. - Kabuyu Multipurpose Cooperative (Kazungula): Focusing on market linkages and aggregation, this cooperative utilized a project-supported bulking center to commercialize smallholder farming. They successfully fulfilled supply contracts for cowpeas with the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) and the World Food Programme (WFP), generating a profit of ZMW 309,000. These results demonstrate the effectiveness of combining climate-resilient infrastructure with organized market access to improve smallholder livelihoods.	
Dates and venues of engagement activities	
The 2025 NAP Expo took place in Lusaka from August 12–15, drawing over 450 global delegates. Organized by the UNFCCC's Least Developed Countries Expert Group with UNDP Zambia's support, the event featured technical sessions with four farmer beneficiaries and two senior agriculture officers. A gender-balanced panel included experts from UNDP, the Ministry of Agriculture, and ZMD. Additional key milestones included a steering committee meeting held at the Ministry of Agriculture on April 25, 2025, and a learning exchange visit to Chirundu's Tauya Irrigation Scheme on November 11, 2025, to showcase climate adaptation in practice.	
Sex-disaggregated data on stakeholder engagement participants (male + female = total)	
Environmental and Social Safeguards The project facilitated sensitisation meetings for beneficiaries and delivered training to the contractor on grievance redress mechanisms across the below listed districts between 11-16th March, 2025. Siavonga district: Bbakasa site; 30 members—13 males and 17 females Chirundu district, Chiwuha site: 50 members (20 males and 30 females).	

Learning Exchange Visit The delegation from Eswatini comprised of 4F, 5M. The participants improved knowledge of implementation of GCF funding programme. 2025 National Adaptation Plan Expo Held in Zambia Specific participants that presented during the technical session included: Farmer beneficiaries; Two male and two female; District technical team: Two (1 M; 1F) senior agriculture officer; Panel discussion discussants: Three males and one female participant from UNDP, MoA and ZMD Steering committee meeting The steering committee comprised of 23 persons (8F) Please provide the list of CSOs, NGOs, or other platforms, initiatives, and opportunities the entity reached or consulted in line with requirement according to the relevant framework (projects which IPPF-- satisfying of Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement Plan). Please include the list of other relevant stakeholders involved i.e., stakeholders
Information shared with stakeholders The following information was shared with the stakeholders; • Project Grievance mechanism shared with contractors, district staff and community members • During steering meeting, project shared with members on the status of the project, the progress, project risks, and the challenges with • During Eswatin visit, the participants learnt on the project success and lessons learnt in implementing a GCF funded project • EXpo- information was shared on how the project is advancing the national adaption plan and strategies
Outputs including issues raised and addressed during the reporting period The following were the main issues raised by stakeholders during the engagements • Setting Clear Communications for P-GRM:-During the engagements, contractors, district staff, and community members emphasized the importance of clear communication channels, particularly for raising concerns related to project activities, labour practices, and community impacts. This feedback indicated that simplified procedures and clear focal points were especially appreciated by community members, improving trust and willingness to engage with the project. Follow up clarification sessions were conducted at district level to ensure consistent understanding of the mechanism. • Project implementation delays: During the project steering committee meeting, members highlighted the need for regular updates on implementation progress, risks, and constraints affecting delivery. Stakeholders also raised concerns about coordination challenges, delays and capacity limitations with implementing partners. The project responded by presenting detailed progress updates, outlining key risks and mitigation measures, and incorporating steering committee recommendations into revised workplans and coordination arrangements. • Appreciation of project coordination: Stakeholder feedback during the Eswatini learning visit focused on the value of peer to peer learning and practical exposure to another GCF funded project. Participants noted lessons on institutional coordination, sustainability planning, and results tracking. These insights are being integrated into project implementation, particularly in strengthening systems and documenting lessons learned. • Project contribution to NAP; -At the national Expo, stakeholders requested clearer articulation of the project's contribution to national climate objectives. The project responded by demonstrating alignment with the National Adaptation Plan and related strategies, which stakeholders acknowledged as strengthening national ownership and policy coherence. Overall, stakeholder feedback has enhanced inclusivity, accountability, and continuous learning within the project.
Remarks/Notes N/A

F.6. ESS forward planning and lessons learned	
Are there any planned ESS activities for the next reporting period or lessons learned to share from this period?	Yes ☒ No ☐

Provide planned activities on environmental and social safeguards for the next reporting period	
The project will continue to focus on the activities below: • Review and verification of site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) implementation, focusing on adherence to mitigation measures and contractor compliance requirements. • Disclosure of the Project ESMP to stakeholders, Shared the ESMP documents through stakeholder communication channels, ensuring transparency and alignment with the project's disclosure requirements procedures. • Inductions/training of contractors and project beneficiaries on Project SES requirements • Refresher trainings for communities, project district staff on P-GRM • Quarterly Monitoring of contractor environmental and social performance, with particular emphasis on compliance with agreed environmental safeguards, labour standards, and waste management practices. • Monitoring of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) compliance, accompanied by follow-up actions on community health and safety measures to ensure safe working environments and minimize risks to surrounding communities. • Quarterly updates of the SES risk register, including screening of ongoing and upcoming project activities to ensure timely identification, assessment, and treatment of environmental and social risks. • Tracking and documentation of project grievances, ensuring all concerns raised by project-affected persons or stakeholders are recorded, assessed, and addressed in accordance with the project's grievance redress mechanism.	
Provide any success stories, good practices, or challenges, including those related to the engagement of Indigenous peoples and local communities, promoting Indigenous knowledge and benefits to Indigenous peoples and local communities	
Enhanced Inclusion of Local Communities in Climate Adaptation Processes: During the 2025 NAP expo in Lusaka, Zambia, the project showcased communities from Chirundu and Kazungula districts, who directly presented their experiences across two interventions. (1) Access to all year-round water through solar powered drip irrigation, and (2) enhanced market access through access to bulking storage facilities. The farmers demonstrated successful community voice integration in national climate policy platforms, an important good practice for social inclusion: https://www.undp.org/zambia/stories/nap-expo-2025-insights-scrala-projects-side-event Further, the project commissioned the Mambwe (Msoro) Agro Bulking Centre in Mambwe District. The launch was facilitated by the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Reuben Mtolo Phiri, alongside UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, and the Chieftainess Msoro VII, Linda Wanga Saili. The facility is expected to benefit over 7,000 smallholder farmers, improving storage and market access: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=810923494720664	
F.7. Grievance Redress Mechanism - confirmation & grievances	
Please indicate whether the project can confirm the following statement:	
Fully functional and operational Grievance Redress Mechanisms are in place, have been communicated to and are accessible by all stakeholders applicable to this project	
☒ The accredited entity confirms the statement above at project-level, AE-level, and GCF-level grievance mechanisms.	
☐ The accredited entity does not confirm the statement above	
Have there been any grievances received during the reporting period?	Yes ☒ No ☐
Grievances received from Kazungula district concerned late payment of wages to Contractor's workers employed in project-supported construction and field activities. Workers reported delays in receiving their wages within the agreed contractual timelines, resulting in financial strain, particularly for those depending on daily or weekly income. Once received, grievances were logged, verified, and escalated to the contractor and project management team for immediate follow-up. The project initiated several corrective measures, including: • Engaging the contractor to expedite all outstanding wage payments. • Reviewing internal controls and identifying bottlenecks in the payment approval workflow. • Requiring contractors to submit updated and realistic payment schedules. • Strengthening monitoring of labour management practices and worker communication. • Reminding contractors of their obligations under labour and SES requirements to ensure timely and fair compensation. Importantly, the Country Office introduced a SES Compliance Checklist, which must now be completed and cleared before any contractor payment is approved. This has helped to ensure that contractors adhere to labour standards, OHS requirements, and other SES obligations, including timely wage payments, prior to receiving project funds. This additional oversight mechanism aims to prevent recurrence of late payments and strengthen accountability.	

F.8. Implementation of activities and actions agreed in the Gender Action Plan

During the reporting period, the project continued implementing all GAP activities across climate services, water governance, resilient production, aggregation, finance, processing, and alternative livelihoods. Progress remains largely on track, with most indicators rated GREEN and a few AMBER due to infrastructure delays and funding constraints.

Key achievements include mobilizing 431 community rain gauge monitors (37% women), reaching 343,015 farmers (49% women) with weather advisories, and establishing Water User Associations with 48% female membership. Women's leadership targets were met or exceeded in alternative livelihoods (53% participation, which is over 40% leadership), savings groups (71% women members), and Farmer Field Schools (54% women participation). The life of project target for gender inclusion is 40%, and the project will work towards additional training for women in rain gauge minding, to achieve this target.

Aggregation systems engaged 254 aggregators (25% women), supporting 9,264 farmers (47% women) and generating over ZMW 86.5 million in sales cumulatively. In processing, 60% of trainees were women, and honey value addition increased production volumes.

Where delays occurred—particularly in irrigation operationalization and processing equipment procurement—mitigation measures include phased training, infrastructure completion during the extension period, and accelerated procurement processes. Overall, implementation demonstrates steady progress toward gender integration across outputs.

Are there GAP implementation activities or progress to report for this period?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Summary on Activities and Actions agreed in the Gender Action Plan (max. 200 words)

Provide a progress report on the gender action plan developed during project preparation stage for the reporting period. This will primarily be a report on activities undertaken and results achieved because of completion of an activity. Further, it should also indicate if the project is on track to achieving the intended outcome(s). The reporting should be done for activities, targets and indicators already set in the action plan including on vulnerable groups (youth, poor, female heads of households, etc.) as would have been identified in the gender analysis and action plan. If activities or targets are not achieved as per plan, reasons should be provided, and recourse action should be proposed. Please include reporting on any changes or deviations. Include a Report on implementation challenges and lessons learnt and how these will inform on-going actions and what action will be taken by when to address the challenges faced. Incorporate both quantitative data and qualitative reports on the performance of such actions, and on progress on actions identified.

GAP Activity

- Activity 1.1: Strengthen generation and interpretation of climate information and data collection to ensure timely and detailed weather, climate, crop and hydrological forecasts are available to support smallholder in planning and management of water resources used in resilient agricultural practices.
- Engage both women and men farmers in the generation and analysis of climate-related data building on lessons learned from their repository of experience.
 - Engage with government bodies, universities, and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen capacity to develop climate and weather information systems and analysis in ways that respond to the information needs and constraints of women and men smallholders (e.g., through sharing of SCRALA's experiences/lessons learned on gender and climate information services with university course(s), providing inputs to university curricula developers, inclusion of gender sessions in training on interpretation and use of climate information, etc.).
 - Integrate gender perspective in trainings related to CI/EW (e.g., strengthening capacity of ZMD; district agricultural/ weather/climate advisory training, etc.).
 - Develop and promote tailored and targeted weather and agricultural advisories that are gender responsive, considering the needs of women and men smallholders (e.g., women and men may need information at different points in the season depending on what and when they are planting, language, feedback from women and men on previous advisories)

Indicator

- Number of farmers involved in voluntary rainfall data collection network and those participating in dissemination workshops
- Number of capacity development related initiatives/ policy dialogue events that include SCRALA contributions on gender and climate information services.
- Number of training events that mainstream a gender perspective/ include gender session.
- ZMD and Department of Agriculture develop weather and agricultural advisories demonstrating evidence of considering the needs of women and men smallholders

Rating of Indicator

GREEN (on track to be met)

Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	1600
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
The project has mobilized 431 farmers (270 men and 161 women) across 220 agricultural camps in 16 districts to systematically collect and report rainfall data, significantly strengthening localized climate information systems. In 2025, an additional 15 farmers (9 men and 6 women) were trained at community level, expanding data coverage and reinforcing the national early warning system. This growing network of trained community monitors has improved the availability, accuracy, and timeliness of rainfall data, supporting evidence-based decision-making and climate-resilient agricultural planning at district and national levels. In parallel, the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD) successfully hosted the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) 2025, generating a consensus regional seasonal forecast for the 2025/2026 rainy season and enhancing regional forecasting capacity through scientific collaboration with SADC-CSC, PIDACC, and CIAT. The forecast was downscaled to a national level and disseminated in seven major local languages. Strategic partnerships with WFP, GIZ, and UNHCR were instrumental in achieving these results.	
Cumulative progress update (Entire period)	
A total of 431 farmers serving as rain gauge minders have been strengthened as community climate champions, systematically collecting and reporting rainfall data at local level. Data flows from community level to the Ministry of Agriculture at district level and is submitted daily to the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD), reinforcing both national and localized early warning systems. This structured reporting mechanism has improved the timeliness, accuracy, and reliability of weather information, enhancing preparedness, climate risk management, and adaptive decision-making. Rain gauge minders also mobilize fellow farmers to access and utilize weather-agro advisories, expanding last-mile dissemination of climate services. Cumulatively, 407 Agriculture Extension Officers (119 women) have been trained in the interpretation of agrometeorological data, exceeding the initial target of 220. This expansion reflects administrative changes that increased agricultural camps in several districts. Training will continue in three remaining districts in the next reporting period to ensure full geographic coverage.	
Budget	730,164
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	12 July 2027
Responsibility	
Ministry of Agriculture and the Zambia Meteorological Department	
Remarks/Notes	
The initial target of 1,600 trainees was revised to prioritize data integrity following the installation of 300 rain gauges. To ensure systematic reporting, the project shifted to training one designated farmer per gauge. Consequently, 431 farmers (37% women) have been trained, averaging 26 per district. This strategic adjustment addresses high farmer-to-extension ratios and community literacy levels. Additionally, the recruitment of a consultant to align meteorology curricula with WMO, HEA, and ZaQA standards was delayed by funding constraints. This accreditation process is now rescheduled for completion during the project extension period.	

GAP Activity	
Activity 1.2: Strengthen dissemination and use of tailored weather / climate-based agricultural advisories to ensure smallholder farmers receive the tailored information they need for planning and decision-making Actions below contribute to Activity 1.2 and Output 1 (and associated indicators) i. Identify the needs and challenges of smallholder women and men in accessing weather/climate-based agricultural advisories (e.g., communication channel, content, language). ii. Incorporate different communication channels and approaches as needed to meet the specific advisory access needs and challenges of smallholder women and men (e.g., community/ farming/women's groups, radio, mobile, etc.). iii. Integrate a gender and climate advisory services focus into training for extension workers, lead farmers, other smallholder farmers on interpretation and use of climate information (e.g., need for sharing information accurately with different household members; considering most effective communication channels for women as well as men; consideration of women's time/mobility).	
Indicator	
Number of smallholder farmers, disaggregated by gender, accessing advisories to inform their agricultural planning.	
Rating of Indicator	GREEN (on track to be met)
Baseline	3
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	52
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
Reliable forecasts have continued to help safeguard yields, ensuring food availability and nutrition stability. Through extension services, Agriculture Officer weather-agro advisories with farmers, directing them on what, when and how to plant. The project directly reached 148,382 farmers (52% women) in 2025. Multi-channel dissemination—including television, radio, WhatsApp, SMS, and Facebook—enhanced accessibility, particularly for women, strengthening preparedness and climate risk management.	
Cumulative progress update (Entire period)	
Cumulatively, the project has delivered weather and agro-advisories to 343,015 farmers, nearly half of whom are women (49%), substantially expanding equitable access to climate services. Through the joint production of the Weather–Agro Bulletin by the Zambia Meteorological Department, systematic downscaling into seven major local languages, and multi-channel dissemination tailored to reach women, the project has strengthened last-mile climate information delivery nationwide. By embedding advisory dissemination across all project interventions throughout the farming season, the initiative has institutionalized climate services within agricultural extension systems rather than treating them as stand-alone outputs. This integrated approach is transforming how smallholder farmers—particularly women disproportionately affected by climate shocks—anticipate, plan for, and respond to climate variability. The result is strengthened adaptive capacity, improved risk-informed decision-making, enhanced livelihood resilience, and a more inclusive national climate information value chain.	
Budget	91,250
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	12 July 2027
Responsibility	
The Zambia Meteorological Department and the Ministry of Agriculture	

Remarks/Notes	
This indicator is on track because the weather is disseminated using various platforms at different times. The numbers reported only account for farmers reached through extension services, without factoring in radio, television, SMS and internet/online listenership and viewership. If these are factored in, the performance will even be higher.	
GAP Activity	
Activity 2.1: Promote irrigation schemes, water storage and capture as well as other resilient water management strategies to increase access to water for agricultural production in the target districts within Agro-ecological Regions I and II Actions below contribute to Activity 2.1 and Output 2 (and associated indicators) i. Identify the potentially different needs and challenges of women and men smallholder farmers using and/or interested in introducing resilient water management strategies (e.g., irrigation schemes, water storage and capture). ii. Work with women as well as men smallholders to develop strategies to increase their water access and irrigation through, for example integrating group/household resilience visioning in water associations, community dialogues, FFS, etc. iii. Integrate gender issues (e.g., around access and use of water, decision-making over water use, etc.) in trainings on water management approaches for water user groups and Water User Associations. iv. Strengthen the participation of men and women in water user groups and associations, including greater participation of women in leadership positions.	
Indicator	
Number of women in leadership positions of Water User Associations.	
Rating of Indicator	AMBER (needs attention to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	40
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
Construction of the irrigation schemes in Luangwa and Siavonga districts has progressed to 80% and 100% completion, respectively. Water User Associations (WUAs) were established in advance of construction to ensure early institutional readiness and community ownership. Comprehensive training in operations and maintenance will be delivered in the next reporting period, aligned with the finalization of works, to ensure that WUAs are fully equipped to manage the schemes effectively and sustainably upon commissioning.	
Cumulative progress update (Entire period)	
The Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) institutionalized gender-responsive water governance through the development of Guidelines for Training of Water Users Associations (WUAs) in Sustainable Water Management in 2022. The Guidelines mandate progressive inclusion of women in leadership positions, targeting a minimum threshold of 40% representation, thereby embedding gender equality within water governance structures. Across the 16 target districts, WUAs were established with a total membership of 1,348 (48% women), exceeding the minimum representation benchmark and signaling strong progress toward inclusive resource management. While most committees await full operationalization pending completion of irrigation infrastructure, Tauya Irrigation Scheme in Chirundu is already demonstrating impact. Managed by a multi-purpose cooperative of 45 households with an Executive Committee comprising 40% women, the scheme generated ZMW 318,800 in 2025 from banana production. Similarly, the Malombe Irrigation Scheme in Sioma has established a trained and functional WUA subcommittee (60% women leadership), positioning it for effective management ahead of commissioning in 2026. Together, these efforts are strengthening women's leadership in water governance, enhancing institutional sustainability, and laying the foundation for climate-resilient agricultural productivity.	

Budget	3,056,005
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	12 July 2027
Responsibility	
The Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA) and the Ministry of Agriculture	
Remarks/Notes	
The full operationalization of the Water User Associations (WUAs) has been delayed due to the pending completion of irrigation infrastructure across the 16 districts. Refresher training and capacity-strengthening support will be provided progressively as the irrigation schemes are finalized to ensure that WUAs are fully prepared to assume their management and governance responsibilities, with all gender aspects included.	
GAP Activity	
Activity 2.2: Increased access to agricultural inputs (e.g., seeds, soil kits) for resilient crops Actions below contribute to Activity 2.2 and Output 2 (and associated indicators) i. Identify the differentiated needs and priorities of resilient-crop related inputs (e.g., crop varieties) for men and women smallholders to understand the crop adoption interests, needs and challenges. ii. Improve adoption of diversified crops by strengthening access to seeds/ inputs and extension support for drought- and pest-resistant, and early maturing crop varieties for both men and women smallholder farmers based on their needs, interests, challenges. iii. Include both women and men in seed multiplication training and implementation.	
Indicator	
No additional indicators to disaggregated Output level indicators which are relevant for this Activity.	
Rating of Indicator	AMBER (needs attention to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	1
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
Through the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP), the Government reached 102,671 smallholder farmers (55,328 men and 47,343 women) with climate-resilient seed inputs, strengthening adaptive capacity at household level. The near parity in reach reflects continued efforts to promote equitable access to productive inputs for both women and men farmers. FISP remains a critical channel for enhancing women's access to improved seed varieties, particularly given their limited access to land, credit, and input markets. Although the 2024 drought disrupted seed multiplication efforts, however in 2025, Farmer Field Schools served as an important resilience mechanism by preserving and redistributing cowpea seed from previous harvests. This intervention benefited 271 farmers, 51% of whom were women, reinforcing women's role in seed systems, safeguarding household food security, and strengthening community-level climate resilience.	
Cumulative progress update (Entire period)	
Cumulatively, 559 farmers (43% women) across 21 cooperatives have been trained in seed multiplication to produce and locally supply drought-tolerant and alternative crop varieties, strengthening community-based seed systems. The participation of women in seed production is particularly significant, as it enhances their role beyond subsistence farming to include input supply, local market engagement, and decision-making within cooperative structures.	

Through technical support from the Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) and the Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI), farmers have received training in quality assurance, certification standards, seed marketing, and seed bank formation, improving both technical capacity and market readiness. Engagement of the private sector through district seed fairs has further expanded market linkages and visibility for locally produced seed. To date, farmers have produced 317 kg of groundnut seed and 995 kg of cowpea seed, strengthening climate resilience, promoting crop diversification, and increasing income-generating opportunities—particularly for women farmers participating in cooperative seed enterprises.

Budget	48,000
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	12 July 2027

Responsibility

The Ministry of Agriculture: The Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) and Zambia Agricultural Research Institute (ZARI)

Remarks/Notes

Farmers show strong interest in seed multiplication, but dry-season expansion has been limited by water scarcity. With irrigation schemes nearing completion, the project will transition to year-round production, leveraging improved water access to boost reliability.

Concurrently, the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) and Farmer Field Schools (FFS) remain vital for distributing and preserving climate-resilient seeds post-harvest. These integrated efforts are designed to strengthen local seed systems, encourage crop diversification, and enhance both climate resilience and income for smallholders. This holistic approach ensures a sustainable supply of high-quality seeds regardless of seasonal shifts.

GAP Activity

Activity 2.3: Introduction of new agricultural practices to strengthen production and diversify crops in the context of climate variability and change

- i. Actions below contribute to Activity 2.3 and Output 2 (and associated indicators)
- ii. Identify the differentiated needs and priorities of new agricultural practices for men and women smallholders to understand the interests, needs and challenges in the context of climate change.
- iii. Introduce new agricultural practices for both women and men that build on their (potentially differentiated) indigenous knowledge strategies and experience
- iv. Work respectfully with women and men smallholders to document local/indigenous (IK) practices and coping mechanisms, paying due attention to any IK related legal commitments/policies that must be considered

Indicator

Number of knowledge sharing/ communication products (e.g., policy brief, pamphlet, video, presentation, etc.) featuring examples/case studies of gender and IK practices/lessons learned /good practices in SCRALA.

Rating of Indicator	GREEN (on track to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	4

Annual progress update (Reporting Period)

Target: At least 1 video, 1 case study, 1 other medium depending on audience (by 2025); and at least 1 communication/ news blogpost per year (These products may combine with knowledge sharing from other activities.)

In 2025, the Project strengthened its visibility and knowledge management efforts through strategic collaboration with the National Agriculture Information Services (NAIS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to develop a range of communication products highlighting the climate context, interventions, and measurable results achieved. Emphasis was placed on documenting how women beneficiaries are applying acquired skills and knowledge to enhance agricultural productivity, diversify livelihoods, and increase household incomes. To expand outreach and engagement, over 25 social media posts, print media news stories and electronic communication materials were produced and disseminated across multiple digital platforms, including YouTube, Instagram, LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, and TikTok, newspapers and Television. This multi-channel communication approach enhanced public awareness, promoted gender-responsive climate action, and amplified the project's impact among stakeholders, partners, and broader audiences.

Cumulative progress update (Entire period)

Cumulatively over 200 communication products have been produced and broadly shared in local and international media.

Budget	35,000
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	12 July 2027

Responsibility

The Zambia Meteorological Department and the Ministry of Agriculture

Remarks/Notes

This activity is on track and communication is done in collaboration with all the responsible parties.

GAP Activity

- Activity 2.4: Introduce alternative livelihoods to strengthen resilience of target communities
Actions below contribute to Activity 2.4 and Output 2 (and associated indicators)
- Identify the different needs and challenges of women in adopting different and contribute to household resilience.
 - Conduct community dialogues including resilience visioning, for example by incorporating approaches such as, e.g., household visioning tools, Gender Action Learning Systems or other suitable approach to strengthen adoption of alternative livelihoods and household resilience.
 - Work with women to identify those who are interested in becoming champions and leaders for adopting alternative livelihoods and engage men in supporting women as champions and leaders.
 - Include men and women in training and technical support for alternative livelihoods.

Indicator

Number of women in leadership positions in newly established cooperatives or farmer groups for alternative livelihoods.

Rating of Indicator	GREEN (on track to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	40

Annual progress update (Reporting Period)

Target: 40% of leadership positions are held by women

Of the 13,676 farmers adopting alternative livelihoods in beekeeping, goat rearing, fish farming, and village chicken production, 7,195 (53%) are women, demonstrating strong progress toward women's economic inclusion in climate-resilient enterprises. Through alternative livelihoods, these farmers generated ZMW6,301,535.10 from sales. The project has ensured women's meaningful participation in beneficiary selection processes, with female-headed households prioritized under vulnerability criteria, strengthening social equity and targeting those most at risk from climate shocks.

Beyond participation, women are assuming leadership and decision-making roles within producer structures. In Kazungula District, seven beekeeping cooperatives were established, with women holding 40% of executive positions, enhancing their influence over production, marketing, and income distribution. Similarly, women occupy 54% of leadership positions in fish farming cooperatives, signalling a shift toward more inclusive governance.

Cumulative progress update (Entire period)

These interventions are not only diversifying livelihoods but also strengthening women's agency, income control, and resilience, contributing to more equitable and sustainable rural economic transformation because 7,195 (53%) women are participating in alternative livelihoods and 54% are represented in leadership.

Budget	53,000
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	12 July 2027

Responsibility

The Ministry of Agriculture

Remarks/Notes

The project has deliberately ensured that women are participating in all interventions and that they are supported in taking up leadership positions. This will continue to keep the progress on track.

GAP Activity

Activity 2.5: Establish farmer field schools and learning centers of excellence to further document and scale up successful practices

Actions below contribute to Activity 2.5 and Output 2 (and associated indicators)

- i. Identify the needs and challenges of women and men in relation to the training approach and curriculum of FFS and learning centres of excellence as well as ongoing access to information through these. For example, timing/location of training, potential for actively engaging in FFS and voicing opinions, ideas (which may require women working together and men working together at times).
- ii. Integrate resilience/household visioning approach (e.g., Gender Action Learning Systems) into the content of FFS training and curriculum and centers of excellence and/or related processes to support women and men in identifying medium and long-term visions and the opportunities and constraints to getting there. (This also allows opportunity for raising gender issues, e.g., labour/time use/mobility, (inequitable) decision-making/power dynamics including on income and expenditure, access to land, inputs, etc. that if addressed, can contribute greatly to building resilience of households, groups, and communities.

Indicator

Number/% of farmers, disaggregated by gender, who are lead farmers and/or hold other similar leadership positions.

Rating of Indicator	GREEN (on track to be met)
Baseline	0

Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	40
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
Target: 40% women In 2025, FAO, under Output 2.5, strengthened adaptive capacity by establishing 245 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and training 550 extension staff, while developing climate-smart protocols tailored to district needs. A total of 459 farmers (254 women) farmers were added to the FFS in 2025. Twelve of the planned sixteen Centres of Excellence (CoEs) were completed, including solar-powered irrigation sites and climate-smart technology demonstration centres. Gender mainstreaming remained central throughout implementation. Recognizing that women are disproportionately affected by climate risks due to limited access to land, inputs, and information, the project ensured their strong participation in FFS, promoted equitable access to climate-resilient seed systems, and supported capacity-building that empowers women as decision-makers in farming households. Challenges included droughts, theft of equipment, weak governance structures, and delayed funding. In 2026, efforts will focus on completing remaining CoEs, strengthening ownership, consolidating M&E evidence, and documenting impact stories.	
Cumulative progress update (Entire period)	
The Cumulative total of 9187 (54% women) participating in Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and Centres of Excellence provide a shift from activity-based training to systemic, gender-responsive resilience building within. By explicitly assessing and addressing the differentiated needs, constraints, and participation dynamics of women and men—including training accessibility, voice, leadership, and decision-making—the project strengthens the inclusiveness and effectiveness of extension systems. The integration of household resilience and visioning approaches, such as Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS), embeds transformative dialogue on labour distribution, control over income, access to productive resources, and long-term livelihood planning within technical agricultural training. This approach institutionalizes gender equality within climate adaptation programming, strengthens adaptive capacity at household and community levels, and positions FFS and Centres of Excellence as platforms for sustained, equitable, and climate-resilient agricultural transformation.	
Budget	165,000
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	12 April 2027
Responsibility	
The Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture	
Remarks/Notes	
The project has already surpassed the 40% target for women participation, at 54%. In 2025, the Ministry of Agriculture took up funding of the FFS within mainstream programming, this will enhance learning for farmers, address key gender issues that may affect women's learning, access to land, production and incomes. It will also provide a platform for sustainability.	
GAP Activity	
Activity 3.1: Strengthen processing of resilient products Actions below contribute to Activity 3.1 and Output 3 (and associated indicators) - Identify the needs and challenges of women and men in relation to processing methods and strategies. - Train target beneficiaries on processing resilient crops, ensuring women's and men's potentially different needs and challenges are addressed and men are engaged to support women including in equitable use of benefits and in processing leadership.	

Indicator	
Number of farmers, disaggregated by gender, in leadership positions related to processing (e.g., cooperatives, processing centres, etc.)	
Rating of Indicator	AMBER (needs attention to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	40
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
Target: 40% women The Ministry of Agriculture progressed with the procurement process by selecting a Contractor to purchase various processing equipment for all the 16 districts, but this award could not be completed due to delay in project funding.	
Cumulative progress update (Entire period)	
Cumulatively, 1,524 farmers—of whom 918 (60%) are women—have been trained in food preservation, processing, and storage of resilient crops, strengthening women's technical capacity and role in post-harvest management. To further enhance honey production and value addition for 2,835 farmers (1,179 women), the project procured 112 40-litre drums, 20 candle-making machines, 1,000 candle-making ropes, and 6 solar dryers for vegetable processing in 2023. These investments have improved women's and men's access to appropriate processing technologies, reducing post-harvest losses and expanding income-generating opportunities, particularly for women engaged in beekeeping and value addition. The honey processing machines have contributed to a notable increase in production and sales, with honey processed and sold rising from 36,993 kg in 2024 to 41,920 kg in 2025, enhancing household incomes and strengthening women's economic participation within the value chain.	
Budget	945,200
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	12 July 2027
Responsibility	
The Ministry of Agriculture	
Remarks/Notes	
The project will accelerate the procurement of processing equipment and training of farmers to ensure that targets are met fully.	
GAP Activity	
Activity 3.2: Strengthen storage, aggregation and transportation of resilient products to enhance commercialisation and linkages to market and SMEs Actions below contribute to Activity 3.2 and Output 3 (and associated indicators) i. Identify the opportunities, needs, and challenges of men and women in relation to storage, aggregation, transportation, and develop strategies to address them. ii. Engage women as well as men in all trainings and provide opportunities for them within the storage, aggregation, and transportation networks. iii. Incorporate training on business skills, leadership and decision-making that responds to the needs and	

challenges of women as well as men. iv. Ensure training/curricula on the rollout of agricultural, climate change adaption, business, leadership and entrepreneur training highlights need and challenges of both women and men as well as opportunities and ways of addressing these.	
Indicator	
· Number of farmers, disaggregated by gender, with improved access to markets. · Number of women in leadership roles (e.g., of cooperatives).	
Rating of Indicator	GREEN (on track to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	40
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
Target: 40% women Building on a productive agricultural season, aggregation activities scaled up in 2025, significantly expanding market opportunities for smallholder farmers. A total of 80 Micro Aggregators participated—a notable increase from 2024—including 27 aggregators from Kazungula District. Progress in gender inclusivity is evident, with women making up 31% of aggregators and nearly half (49%) of the 1,936 farmers who sold produce through these structures. Women were central to this growth, supplying diverse crops such as beans, cowpeas, groundnuts, rice, and sunflower, which strengthened household income and climate resilience following the drought. Simultaneously, the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) provided a vital alternative market. For the 2025/2026 season, the FRA set a competitive purchase price of ZMW 340 per 50kg bag (ZMW 6,800 per tonne) for Grade A white maize. This strategic pricing offered high market security, particularly for women producers. While the aggregation system remains robust, the FRA's attractive rates influenced a higher proportion of farmers to utilize government channels. Together, these dual pathways—private micro-aggregation and public procurement—have created a more stable, lucrative, and inclusive economic environment for Zambia's smallholder agricultural sector.	
Cumulative progress update (Entire period)	
Since its inception, the project has made significant strides in formalizing agricultural markets, training 731 traders in aggregation—37% of whom are women. Currently, 254 active aggregators (25% women) are bridging the gap between smallholders and structured markets. While women are still underrepresented in leadership roles, their increasing participation signals a vital shift toward inclusive rural value chains and enhanced decision-making power. These aggregation systems have successfully handled 4,845.45 metric tonnes of diverse crops, including rice, groundnuts, soya beans, and sunflower. This produce was sourced from 9,264 farmers, with women accounting for 47% of the supply base. To date, aggregators have facilitated the sale of 3,120.24 metric tonnes, generating ZMW 86,545,021.00 in total revenue. By providing reliable alternatives to exploitative informal traders, these structured markets have stabilized incomes and improved price realization. For women farmers, who typically face higher barriers to fair pricing, this system has been transformative. Beyond production, women are emerging as key market actors, gaining greater control over household finances, increased bargaining power, and heightened visibility within their communities. This holistic approach ensures that climate-resilient agriculture translates directly into sustainable economic empowerment.	
Budget	0
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	12 July 2026
Responsibility	

The World Food Programme (WFP) and the Ministry of Agriculture	
Remarks/Notes	
To date, the project has trained 731 traders in aggregation, with 37% being women. This initiative moves women beyond basic production into active trade and enterprise. By targeting gender gaps in market knowledge and negotiation, the project is positioning female entrepreneurs to compete effectively within aggregation systems. Furthermore, the project is finalizing new marketing facilities to ensure safe, transparent trading environments. Once operational, these hubs will host additional training for farmers and traders. This infrastructure, combined with capacity building, will empower more women to engage in profitable market systems, boosting their incomes and economic agency within local value chains.	
GAP Activity	
Activity 3.3 Increase access to finance and insurance products for smallholder farmers by engaging with potential financing sources including public, private, bilateral and multi-lateral sources. Actions below contribute to Activity 3.3 and Output 3 (and associated indicators) - Identify opportunities, needs, and challenges of women and men in accessing financing through different sources and facilitate dialogue with finance providers. - Include women and men in all training and make training gender-responsive (e.g., meeting needs and challenges of women/men in accessing/participating in training, location, timing; ensuring women's voice is heard, etc.) - Work with women and men to support women in strengthening their access to services (e.g., credit, insurance)	
Indicator	
Number of farmers, disaggregated by gender, adopting new financial and/or insurance products.	
Rating of Indicator	GREEN (on track to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	40
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
The project achieved significant milestones in financial inclusion and climate resilience across 16 districts. Currently, 1,077 savings groups with 40,942 members are active, with women comprising 71% of participants. In 2025 alone, these groups saved ZMW 24.1 million. To scale this impact, the project transitioned toward formalization, linking 249 groups to financial institutions and helping 80 groups access services through Vision Fund, enabling women to invest in productive assets. However, a multi-stakeholder Consultative Workshop revealed persistent gender inequities in climate services. Women farmers face systemic barriers, including restricted access to climate data, low insurance awareness, and exclusion from decision-making. Specifically, outdated farmer registers and low payout values under the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) limit women's ability to benefit from risk-transfer mechanisms. Key Recommendations for Reform: Information Access: Ensure timely delivery of gender-disaggregated climate data. Inclusive Design: Redesign insurance products to meet the specific needs of female farmers. Institutional Capacity: Strengthen gender-responsive climate risk management within local and national agencies. Participation: Mandate women's involvement in insurance processes and decision-making bodies to ensure equitable climate-risk protection.	

Cumulative progress update (Entire period)	
Cumulatively, substantial progress was recorded in strengthening community-based financial systems and advancing gender-responsive climate-resilience efforts. A total of 1,077 savings groups, with 40,942 members, cumulatively generated ZMW 90,216,997.20 across 16 districts, reflecting strong savings culture and high female participation. Building on this momentum, the project supported the transition of mature groups into SACCO-ready structures, resulting in 249 groups being linked to formal financial institutions and 80 groups accessing financial services through Vision Fund. These linkages are expanding opportunities for women to invest in productive assets and improve household resilience as observed from monitoring women report being able to afford food, school requirements for children, emergencies among other needs.	
Budget	0
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	12 July 2027
Responsibility	
The World Food Programme and the Ministry of Agriculture	
Remarks/Notes	
The achievement for women is above target because women's higher participation is driven by structural barriers that limit their access to formal financial systems, including restrictive collateral requirements, unequal property rights, and discriminatory lending practices. Savings groups function as low-threshold, community-regulated financial mechanisms, enabling women to accumulate capital, access low-interest credit, and diversify livelihood activities without formal banking barriers. Additionally, because women constitute over 70% of the agricultural labour force and shoulder primary caregiving roles, they rely on these groups to stabilize consumption, manage agricultural seasonality, and buffer climate-related shocks.	
GAP Activity	
Activity 3.4: Identify available markets and promote climate- resilient products Actions below contribute to Activity 3.4 and Output 3 (and associated indicators) - Identify strategies to target both men and women in nutrition education and engage both men and women in campaigns around nutrition and alternative crops. - Develop/strengthen links between both women and men smallholder farmers and private sector actors on resilient crops and identify and mitigate/resolve any needs and challenges experienced. - Procure indigenous foods from both men and women smallholder farmers equally. - Include girls and boys in school garden activities and awareness raising on resilient crops.	
Indicator	
No additional indicators to disaggregated Output level indicators which are relevant for this Activity.	
Rating of Indicator	GREEN (on track to be met)
Baseline	0
Target, including sex-disaggregation where applicable	1
Annual progress update (Reporting Period)	
The project conducted a value chain analysis identifying significant postharvest losses in maize, beans, and groundnuts, particularly during harvesting and on-farm storage. Adoption of Hermetic Storage Technologies (HSTs)	

remains low at 4.9%, hindered by high costs, limited awareness, and a reliance on cheaper chemical alternatives. These barriers disproportionately affect women, who face restricted access to finance, information, and extension services. While HSTs prove highly profitable for legumes, their economic benefit for maize is less pronounced.

To address these gaps, the report advocates for aggressive awareness campaigns, affordable distribution models, and gender-responsive training. Key recommendations include integrating women into value-chain decision-making and implementing crop-saving schemes to strengthen household resilience.

Simultaneously, the Ministry of Agriculture is spearheading reforms to the Warehouse Receipt System, including plans to establish a dedicated Warehouse Authority. This institutional shift complements existing market channels provided by the Food Reserve Agency and the School Feeding Programme.

On the community level, the project scaled up nutrition education and established 448 school gardens across 16 districts. These gardens serve as practical hubs for food security, ensuring that improved agricultural practices translate directly into better nutritional outcomes for children and their families.

Cumulative progress update (Entire period)

Over the implementation period, WFP strengthened aggregation systems, climate-resilient value chains, market access, and nutrition programming despite COVID-19 disruptions and climate shocks. Capacity building reached government staff, aggregators, and tens of thousands of smallholder farmers—nearly half of whom were women—through cascading trainings, radio programming, and private sector partnerships. Structured aggregation enabled thousands of farmers to bulk and market significant commodity volumes, while reforms to the warehouse receipt system aimed to formalize trade. Climate-resilient sorghum and millet value chains expanded participation of women farmers, improving drought resilience and income opportunities. School feeding and nutrition initiatives scaled substantially, establishing hundreds of school gardens and training educators, creating local market linkages that benefit women producers. However, persistent postharvest losses and low adoption of hermetic storage technologies—driven by cost, limited awareness, weak distribution, and constrained access to finance—continue to disproportionately affect women. Strengthening gender-responsive extension, improving women's access to affordable technologies and finance, and deepening their participation in aggregation and value chain leadership remain critical to building inclusive, resilient food systems.

Budget	0
Currency	USD
Timeline (Planned completion of activity)	12 July 2027

Responsibility

The World Food Programme and the Ministry of Agriculture

Remarks/Notes

N/A

F.9. Gender Action Plan implementation review

Is the gender expert for the project/programme engaged to support the implementation of the gender action plan? If engaged previously, please advise if the gender expert has been retained by the project/programme, including plans to engage another expert if a previously engaged expert has left the project/programme.

Yes ☒ No ☐

The Project has engaged the Gender Specialist from the UNDP Zambia Country Office to support the implementation and monitoring of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) throughout the project's duration. In close collaboration with the Gender Specialist, the Project has compiled and analyzed gender data, producing high-quality reports and providing substantive inputs to inform strategic decision-making. The Gender Specialist has also supported institutional capacity strengthening through targeted training and knowledge-sharing initiatives with implementing partners and responsible agencies, advancing the project's gender equality objectives.

Has the implementation of gender action plan/s being implemented according to Funding Activity Agreements and GCF's Updated Gender Policy? Please ensure that the budget is included in the reporting above if it was indicated in the approved or updated gender action plan.	Yes ☒ No ☐
<i>The SCRALA Project has successfully mainstreamed gender across all activities, embedding equality considerations throughout planning, implementation, and monitoring. The Gender Action Plan (GAP) is fully integrated into the main work plan and budget, ensuring that all interventions are gender-responsive and contribute directly to the project's overall objectives. This approach strengthens women's participation, access to resources, and decision-making, reinforcing the project's commitment to equitable and sustainable outcomes.</i>	
Are the planned activities, targets, indicators, timelines, etc. on track during the reporting period?	Yes ☒ No ☐
<i>Project activities remain on track and are expected to be fully completed during the extension period. Leveraging government co-financing, the project has continued implementing priority interventions, including weather-agro advisories, lead farmer training in climate-smart agriculture, alternative livelihoods, farmer field schools, construction of market centers, savings/insurance schemes, and marketing of climate-resilient produce. The project targets 946,153 beneficiaries, 40% of whom are women. In 2025, 55,747 individuals were reached (29,097 women, 26,650 men), bringing the cumulative total to 794,403 beneficiaries (50.6% women). Several interventions have significantly strengthened women's economic empowerment, including savings groups with 40,942 members (71% women), goat rearing with 9,262 members (57% women), and market facilities accessed by 6,034 of 11,412 women beneficiaries. Training schedules were adapted to women's availability, contributing to improved decision-making, increased incomes, and enhanced household resilience, as confirmed through monitoring and feedback.</i>	
Were there any revisions of the approved GAP during the reporting period? Please submit the updated GAP in Annex section of this APR and ensure that the updated GAP has details on each change.	Yes ☐ No ☒
<i>No revisions to the GAP were made during the period, but an update will be prepared in 2026 to account for the extension of the project period and related GAP activities.</i>	
Are the reported results on track to contribute to meeting the sex-disaggregated targets for the direct beneficiaries in the funding proposal, if applicable?	Yes ☒ No ☐
<i>The SCRALA project made significant progress in advancing gender equality and women's resilience to climate change across the 16 target districts. Women consistently represented at least 50% of total beneficiaries, with 401,800 women out of 794,403 cumulative direct beneficiaries, demonstrating strong inclusion across all project components. A major contribution was the expansion of women's access to climate information. In 2025, 77,144 women (52%) received weather and agricultural advisories, facilitated through radio, TV, social media, SMS, and community outreach—delivered in seven local languages to ensure accessibility. Women's economic empowerment and livelihood diversification were strengthened through alternative livelihoods: goat rearing (57% women), chicken rearing (70% women), fish farming (40% women), and beekeeping (41% women). These options have proved vital, with goat sales providing a crucial income buffer for many female-headed households. Savings groups and SACCOs reached 40,942 members—71% women, enhancing women's financial resilience and access to credit. In agricultural adaptation, 121,676 women adopted new climate-smart practices, including conservation agriculture and resilient seed varieties. Women's leadership was emphasized, achieving 40% female leadership in Water User Associations and 54% in fish farming cooperatives, while 49% of lead farmers in Farmer Field Schools were women, strengthening their role as knowledge multipliers. Overall, SCRALA's interventions strengthened women's adaptive capacity, economic security, leadership participation, and access to climate information, meeting or surpassing most gender targets.</i>	
Has the project/programme experienced any implementation challenges that affect gender-related activities? If yes, please include lessons learnt and how they are informing ongoing actions.	Yes ☒ No ☐

Delays in project funding affect women due to existing social and economic inequalities. Women farmers may face reduced access to critical inputs, tools, and climate-smart technologies, as men often have priority when resources are limited. Postponed or scaled-back gender-sensitive training covering climate-smart agriculture, financial literacy, or alternative livelihoods—can limit women’s skills development and decision-making capacity. Interruptions in income-generating activities, such as savings groups, livestock rearing, and marketing of produce, can reduce women’s economic empowerment and their ability to meet household needs. Delayed construction of market centers or storage facilities further restricts women’s market access, as they often operate locally or in smaller volumes. Additionally, postponed project activities can limit women’s participation in governance and community decision-making. Overall, funding delays weaken the achievement of gender-specific objectives, slowing progress toward equitable access, empowerment, and sustainable livelihoods for women beneficiaries. Government co-financing is key in times of funding delays.

Were there any best practices identified, or case studies prepared on benefits/activities undertaken as agents of action by women and the female heads of households during the reporting period? Please share any case studies in the text boxes or in the Annex section of the APR.

Yes ☐ No ☒

n/a

Provide planned activities on gender elements for the next reporting period

- Documentation of lessons learnt and best practices and the impact of the project on helping women to become more resilient to climate change. - Produce and share at least one knowledge sharing/communication product featuring examples/case studies of gender best practices/lessons learned/good practices in SCRALA in Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 - Strengthen implementation e.g., through adding value to ongoing FFS, Village Savings and loans, community dialogue interventions, etc. by leveraging synergies with partners experienced in applying robust gender transformative/engaging men/household visioning approaches. - Gender responsive monitoring to collect data for reports done quarterly. Collection of gender disaggregated data on all indicators under the GAP done quarterly. - End of project evaluation.

G. ANNEXES (UPLOADED)
Annex 1: GHG emission reduction calculation methodology (for projects reporting GHG emission reductions) and details on the calculations of the annual and cumulative value.
No annexes provided.
Annex 2: Communication and visibility material
File Name: Annex 2 = communication and visibility material.pdf
Annex 3: List of grievances received
File Name: Grievance annex_15042026.docx
Annex 4: Procurement information
No annexes provided.
Annex 5: Updated implementation timetable for the Funded Activity for the following year
No annexes provided.
Annex 6: Updated Gender Assessment and/or Action Plan
No annexes provided.
Additional Annexes (if applicable)
No annexes provided.

