

Gender Integration in National Drought Plans – Case of Zambia

Presentation by Dr Nawa Shalala Mwale

1st October 2024

Geneva, Switzerland

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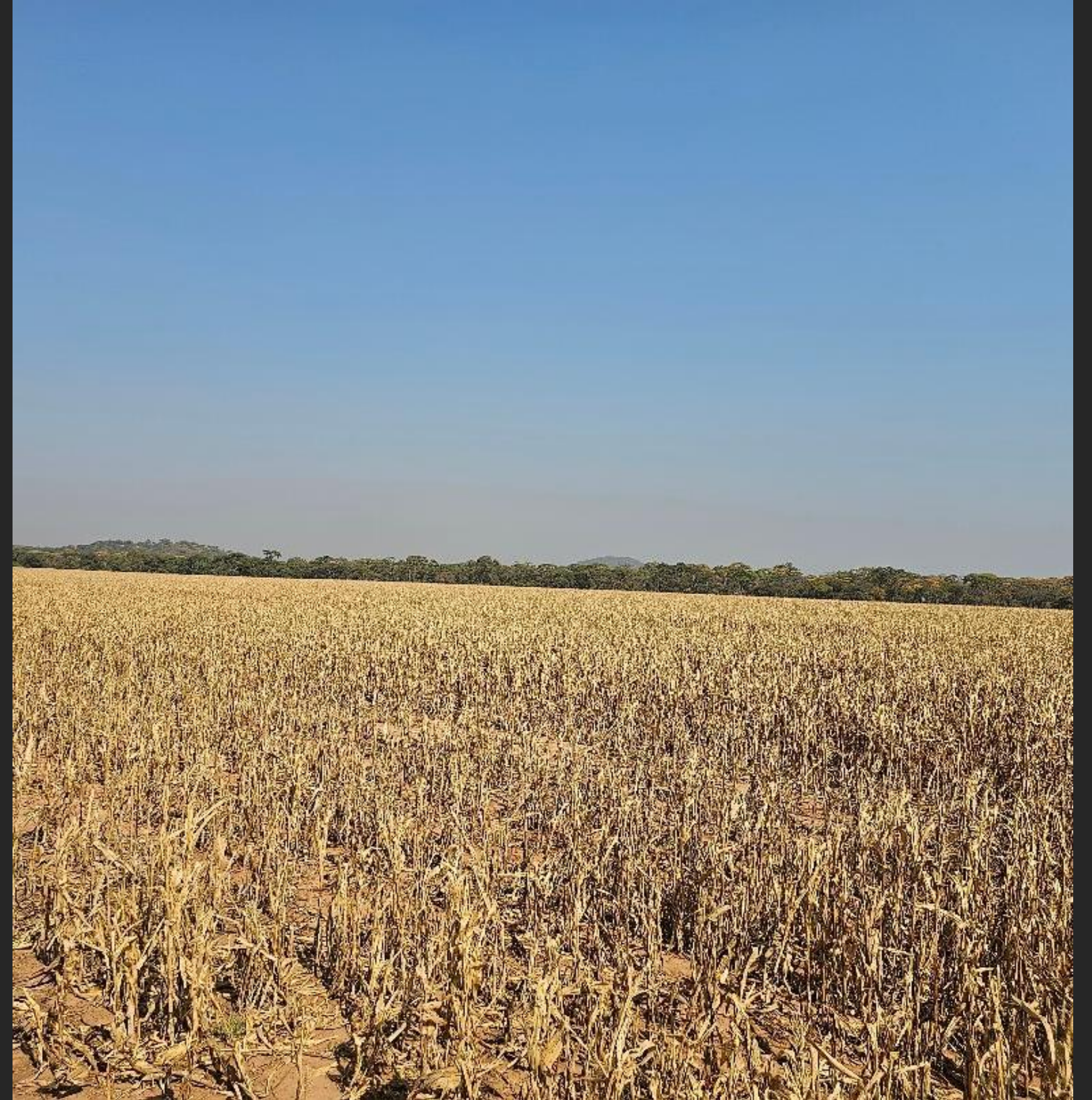
Introduction

“With heavy hearts, we’ve declared a national disaster and emergency as our country faces severe drought” - President of Zambia Mr Hakainde Hichilema - 29th February 2024.



Situation Analysis

- The country is experiencing an unprecedented **energy crisis** due to falling water levels in its hydroelectric power stations.
- **Migration** by men for 'greener pastures' is disrupting social structures and placing additional burdens on those left behind, particularly women and children.
- **Low school attendance** – menstruation, longer distance to water points, inadequate food, especially for schools without feedback programmes (UNICEF: 2024).
- Reduced/zero **crop yields**, loss of **livestock** or forced to sell at low prices causing anxiety and stress.
- Increased transactional sex (with truck drivers) among **adolescent girls** especially in transit city of Kazungula (Ministry of Health at. Al.: 2024).



Gender Integration in the 2018 Zambia NDP

- Gender concerns are incorporated into the composition, responsibilities, roles and activities of the National Disaster Management Committee and sub-committees.
- The NDP promotes consideration of the role and needs of youth and persons with disabilities in adaptive capacity.
- Adaptive capacity of women is quite low due to low economic status, low education levels, lack of skills and lack of access to assets.
- Specific knowledge and skills women and men have can contribute to solutions for adaptation and building resilience.

Gender Integration in Community Projects

Katapazi Water-Energy-Food Nexus Demonstration Project – GWPSA, SACREE, CCARDESA

- To showcase the implementation of Water, Energy, and Food nexus approaches as a viable strategy for adapting to climate change.
- Creating economic empowerment opportunities for women, men and youth.
- Helping women and girls of Katapazi to access water without covering longer distances.
- Capacity development.



Gender Integration in Community Projects

Accelerate Water and Agricultural Resources Efficiency (AWARE – GIZ Project)

- To enhance climate-smart water resources management and efficient agricultural water use for smallholders.
- While smallholder farmers produce over 80% of Zambia's crops, they are dependent on the rains and highly vulnerable to climate change.
- Project using a gender responsive approach – women and men's needs considered.
- Increased access to water, agricultural productivity, capacity development activities.



Stakeholder Response to the Drought Crisis

- Cooperating partners, civil society, the private sector among others have played a huge role supporting government efforts in responding to the drought crisis through technical support, financial resources, drilling boreholes, construction of dams, feeding programmes in schools.
- Stakeholders have engaged women and men, youth/children, persons with disabilities in their awareness raising and support programmes.
- Covering multiple key sectors – Water, Education, Agriculture and Livestock, Energy, Health, Tourism etc.
- Inadequate funds, inadequate communication on drought, lack of alternative sources of livelihoods for rural communities remain major challenges.

Conclusion

“It is crucial to recognize that resolving gender inequalities is not only a matter of righting a wrong but also a significant opportunity to use previously underused and under-recognized abilities, knowledge, and talents,”
UNCCD Executive Secretary, Ibrahim Thiaw (2022).



Merci!
Thank you!