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PRESS RELEASE

Germany bolsters support of the Government of the Republic of Zambia's Multi-Sectoral Response to COVID-19 with ZMW 460 million through new partnership with UNICEF

LUSAKA, Zambia, 3 September 2020 – The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, through KfW Development Bank, has announced today that it has committed 19.75 million Euro (ZMW 460 million) to the Government of the Republic of Zambia's multisectoral response to COVID-19 through a contribution to UNICEF in line with the United Nations Appeal.

11 million Euro has been made available to health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions, alongside 8.75 million Euro to support cash transfers to households made more vulnerable by the pandemic.

The partnership will support the continuity of life-saving essential health services while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic; promote improved access to WASH services in communities, health care facilities and schools; and mitigate the adverse economic impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable households by supporting the Government's Emergency Cash Transfer programme.

"Addressing the multiple adverse impacts of COVID-19 will be critical for mitigating the long-term impact of the pandemic in Zambia," said the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr Chitalu Chilufya MP. "We are very grateful to the Federal Republic of Germany, through KfW Development Bank, for its outstanding support to Zambia's multi-sectoral approach to responding to COVID-19 and for the strategic support to testing, laboratory capacity and continuity of essential services in the health sector."

At a ceremony at MSL Lusaka on 3 September, 259 sets of oxygen concentrators will be handed over to the Ministry of Health along with 1.3 million pairs of gloves and more than 500,000 surgical masks. Under the partnership, 260 sets of oxygen cylinders and incubation units will also be procured along with an estimated 30,000 COVID-19 tests. Technicians at 10 district laboratories will also receive training on COVID-19 testing.

The continuation of routine immunization for an estimated 188,000 children and 190,000 pregnant women will be supported through the partnership with Germany. Over 1,300 health facilities will receive personal protective equipment (PPE) and be equipped with UN Inter-agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) containing essential medicines for basic curative treatment and reproductive maternal newborn and child health services. Water treatment chemicals will be delivered to 11 commercial utilities, and the drilling or rehabilitation of boreholes in 120 communities will help the continuation of a safe water supply. One hundred schools and 100 health facilities will be supported with improved water and sanitation, and infection prevention and control. The partnership will also support the roll out of the COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfer programme.

“This global crisis requires global cooperation,” said Mr Christoph Ritz, Head of Development Cooperation at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Lusaka. “That is why the German Government remains committed to support the Zambian people to control the outbreak of the pandemic and to mitigate the economic and social consequences of the crisis. The response can only be effective if we all work together and remain vigilant. I would like to thank Zambian health workers, the Zambian Government and the United Nations System for their commitment and cooperation.”

“We are committed to doing all we can to support the Government’s multi-sectoral response to COVID-19, focusing on children and the most vulnerable,” said UNICEF Representative in Zambia, Ms. Noala Skinner. “The generous support of the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW to Zambia will allow us to bolster not only the frontline response to COVID-19, but the continuity of essential services and shock responsive social protection.”

About German Development Cooperation/KfW

KfW has supported Zambia since 1965 on behalf of the German Federal Government with more than EUR 900 million, mainly financing infrastructure projects to improve access to water and sanitation, transport and basic infrastructure in provinces and recently also energy and agriculture. KfW is one of the world's leading and most experienced promotional banks. Established as a public law institution in 1948, the German Federal Government has an 80% stake and the German federal states have a 20% stake in the bank. The objective is to combat poverty, secure peace, protect the environment and the climate as well as ensure fair globalisation. KfW is a competent and strategic adviser for current development policy issues.

About UNICEF

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing our special efforts on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

Statement issued by UNICEF Zambia in conjunction with the Ministry of Health

For more information, please contact:

Stanslous Ngosa, Head of Media Relations, Ministry of Health, +260 977 694 310, stanslous.ngosa@moh.zm

John James, Chief, Communication, UNICEF Zambia, +260 977 300 636, jjames@unicef.org

Lisa Nolte, Press Officer, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to Zambia, +260 971 798 420, pr-100@lusa.diplo.de

Stefan C. Lutz, Director, KfW office Lusaka, +260 211 292233, kfw.lusaka@kfw.de