



# WFP Zambia

## Country Brief

### September 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



### Operational Context

Zambia is a lower-middle income country with 17.1 million people. Despite positive economic growth and relative political stability over the years, poverty levels have remained high with over half of the population living below the poverty line.

In the 2018/2019 farming season, some parts of the country experienced drought, leading to significant crop losses and poor harvests. As a result, 2.3 million affected people in 58 districts are food insecure and in need of food assistance. Due to the fiscal challenges and rising debt burden, the Government may not adequately and timely respond to the food insecurity situation in the affected regions.

In line with its five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP), WFP will distribute food to the affected people and provide logistical support to the Government of Zambia as it responds to the emergency. WFP's technical support to the Government will help to strengthen national programmes and systems that contribute to zero hunger. WFP has been present in Zambia since 1967, providing food assistance and strengthening the government's capacity in addressing food and nutritional needs.



### In Numbers

**223,285 metric tons** of food distributed

**US\$ 40 million** for six months (October 2019 – March 2020) net funding requirements

**13,526 refugees assisted** in September 2019



### Operational Updates

**Drought Response:** During the 2018/2019 farming season, the southern half of Zambia experienced drought conditions, resulting in significant crop losses and poor harvests. As a result, an estimated 2.3 million people in 58 districts, representing 25 percent of the rural population, are in need of emergency humanitarian assistance. In response to the emergency, WFP prepared a drought response plan in September to buy 22,676 mt of pulses for distribution in 31 districts. Using its logistics expertise, WFP will deliver 38,475 mt of maize meal to 13 affected districts and provide market monitoring services in selected emergency cash transfer districts. The total cost of WFP's response is US\$40 million.

**School feeding:** As part of providing technical assistance to the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) to transition and reform the Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) programme, WFP supported the deployment process of the Food Tracking System (FTS) at the Government National Data Centre. Once fully functional, the FTS will assist MoGE's entire food supply chain, from monitoring food movement to delivery and consumption. The FTS will help to enhance accountability and efficiency in the delivery of food items. It is expected to undergo testing and roll-out in October and November, respectively.

To improve access to nutritious food amongst school children, WFP together with Self Help Africa and the Government of Zambia, implemented the HGSM programme in six districts of Central and Eastern provinces. WFP concluded the implementation of the programme in September as part of the transition to full government ownership. Over 225,000 learners in sixty schools were reached with school meals and over 1,000 smallholder farmers were provided with a ready market for their vegetables, beans and cow peas.

**Hydroponics vegetable gardens:** Inadequate dietary diversity is one of the main causes of stunting in Zambia, and as such WFP explores sustainable initiatives to contribute to improved nutrition. In September, WFP launched its first hydroponics gardens in the country to promote the production and consumption of vegetables in schools and communities. The technology will be introduced in schools and communities to promote good nutrition.

Population: **17.1 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **141 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

GNI per capita: **US\$3,557**

Stunting: **35% of children between 6-59 months**

Food insecurity: **2.3 million people require emergency food assistance**

## WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)*		
Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
116m	5.7m	40m

\*WFP Country Office is undertaking a budget revision of US\$40 million to the CSP

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Crisis-affected people, including refugees can meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year.

**Focus area:** *Crisis response*

**Activities:**

- Unconditional cash-based and food transfers.
- Supplementary feeding for targeted refugees.

### Strategic Result 2: End Malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Vulnerable people in Zambia have improved nutrition status in line with national targets by 2024.

**Focus area:** *Root causes*

**Activities:**

- Provide technical support to government institutions and the private sector for the reduction of malnutrition and the scale up of high-impact nutrition interventions.

### Strategic Result 3: Smallholder Resilience

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Smallholder farmers in Zambia, especially women, have increased access to markets, enhanced resilience to climate shocks and diversified livelihoods by 2030.

**Focus area:** *Resilience building*

**Activities:**

- Promote climate-smart agriculture, crop diversification through access to finance, climate services, post-harvest management support and access to markets for small holder farmers.

### Strategic Result 4: Capacity Strengthening

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Government institutions in Zambia have more efficient, effective and shock-responsive social protection systems that contribute to the achievement of SDG 2.

**Focus area:** *Root causes*

**Activities:**

- Provide technical expertise and other services for strengthening the systems and capacities of government institutions and other partners in implementing and disaster social protection programmes and early warning preparedness and response activities.
- Provide technical support to the Government in strengthening systems and capacities of the structure for the HGSM programme.

**Weather Index Insurance training:** With funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), WFP

facilitated a Weather Index Insurance workshop to strengthen national capacities, systems, and partnerships with the private sector for climate risk financing and risk transfer in Zambia. Twenty staff from government ministries and departments, as well as pension and insurance companies, were trained on climate risk and opportunities, weather index insurance and index insurance solution co-production. The training led to a consensus to develop a blended insurance product that covers multiple hazards and is responsive to climate-related shocks.

**Nationwide nutrition campaign:** WFP Zambia is supporting the Ministry of Health and National Food and Nutrition Commission in rolling out the Healthy Diets Campaign, a nationwide nutrition campaign aimed at promoting production and consumption of diverse nutritious foods. In September, a media house contracted by WFP began refining messages as well as developing additional messages in readiness for the campaign.

### Assessments

Following a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) study conducted at Mantapala Refugee Settlement by WFP and UNHCR in collaboration with the Government of Zambia and other partners, the initial draft of the assessment report was completed in September. The report is slated for release in October. Key findings on nutrition, food security and livelihoods indicate that despite providing a full food basket on an unconditional basis for all refugees, the food and nutrition security situation was unstable towards mid/end of the month, primarily due to refugees bartering or selling food rations to meet other needs. It would thus be important for partners to urgently invest in livelihood opportunities for refugees, as well as support towards provision of necessary core relief items to prevent refugees from being overly reliant on food assistance to address their basic needs. Transition to cash-based assistance is another key recommendation for all relevant partners, as well as continued calibration through market monitoring and the gradual availability of other livelihood options.

### Donors

Green Climate Fund (GCF), Ireland, Norway, Private Donors, Republic of South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, and United States of America (*in alphabetical order*)

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