



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief April 2020



Operational Context

Landlocked and with a population of 17.4 million, Zambia achieved lower middle-income status in 2011 following years of impressive economic performance. Yet, more than half of its population still live below the poverty line. The deteriorating economy, coupled with the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, threaten government efforts to deliver social services, alleviate poverty, and achieve zero hunger.

In the last decade, the country has suffered from the impacts of climate change, with frequent prolonged dry spells, extreme high temperatures, and floods that have undermined food security and threatened the livelihoods of many smallholder farming households. Smallholders are the country's largest population of food producers. They are responsible for up to 90 percent of the food produced in Zambia, with women accounting for about 80 percent of it.

Under the Zambia Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019–2024, WFP operation encompasses the provision of food assistance to vulnerable and food-insecure people, including through the provision of on-demand logistics support during emergencies. WFP also supports the livelihoods of smallholders and communities in food-insecure areas, and helps strengthen the capacity of the Government to implement national programmes and systems that contribute to zero hunger and improved nutrition.

WFP has been present in Zambia since 1967, providing food assistance and strengthening the capacity of the Government in addressing people's food and nutrition needs.

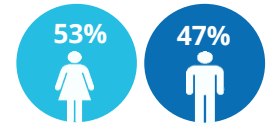


In Numbers

7,134.7 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 39 m six months (April-September 2020) net funding requirements.

325,850 m people assisted
in April 2020



Operational Updates

Following the COVID-19 outbreak and the containment measures undertaken by the Government of Zambia, WFP is ensuring that its activities continue by putting in place preventative measures for the assisted people, and WFP and cooperative partners' staff. These measures include implementing two-month rations to reduce the frequency of food distributions, spacing out distributions to avoid congestion, installing handwashing facilities, and providing protective equipment for staff such as face masks and gloves.

With support from United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, the Government has articulated strategies to respond to the emergency outbreak in its National Multi-Sectoral COVID-19 Contingency and Response Plan. In line with this plan and based on its organizational experience in delivering humanitarian assistance in both urban and rural settings, WFP will respond to food insecurity through cash programming for low-income people in urban and peri-urban areas, market monitoring and on-demand logistics services for food and non-food items. The implementation of cash transfers for low-income earners is expected to start in May.

Since December, WFP has been supporting the Government in responding to the needs generated by prolonged dry spells during the 2018/2019 farming season, which left about 2.3 million people food-insecure and in need of food assistance. Since the start of the drought response, WFP has delivered over 3,290 mt of government-supplied maize meal and over 4,700 mt of WFP-procured beans and peas, reaching some 622,000 people out of the 615,000 planned in the 16 prioritized districts.

In 2020, WFP continues to provide food assistance to some 14,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who are settled at Mantapala Refugee Settlement in Luapula Province. However, in April, WFP was forced to halve the entitlements for the first time due to funding constraints. Full entitlements will resume as soon as additional funding is secured.

In April, WFP, together with the Ministry of Health, conducted a robust social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) campaign for refugees on the importance of good nutrition and a diverse diet. This approach aims to promote the preparation and consumption of nutritious and healthy food, while also laying the ground for the roll-out of the cash-based transfers for refugees scheduled for May.

Population: 17.4 million

2018 Human Development Index: 143 out of 189

Income Level: Lower middle

Stunting: 35% of children aged 6–59 months

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
112 m*	23.4 m	39 m

*WFP undertaking a USD 42.5 million budget revision to include its response to COVID-19 in Zambia.

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.

With inadequate dietary diversity being among the major drivers of malnutrition in Zambia, WFP works with the Ministry of General Education to promote the production and consumption of diverse nutritious foods in schools in

food-insecure areas through the establishment of hydroponics gardens. These will ensure school children can have a healthy and balanced diet, while supporting smallholder farmers and the local economy. So far, 12 pilot units were established in schools in seven districts.

In 2020, WFP continued to support smallholder farmers' resilience to shocks. Trainings on post-harvest management, market access, and financial services were conducted for government staff, who will further cascade the training to the community. Follow-up trainings targeting lead farmers, micro and intermediary aggregators were also undertaken. Moreover, WFP provided formal and sustainable markets to the last mile farmers through the aggregation model, facilitating linkages between intermediary (100) and micro aggregators (450), and linking the farmers to 11 off-takers who purchased a variety of commodities.

WFP supported the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Group (TWG) to enhance the capacity of the Government and agro-based private companies to develop and improve national weather index insurance products. The TWG will improve agricultural risk management by enhancing weather index insurance product management.

WFP developed a nutrition education manual for primary school teachers to be initially disseminated to 240 schools in 12 districts, benefitting 100,000 learners. In partnership with the Government, WFP also trained 440 community health volunteers in Maternal, Adolescent, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MAICYN). The volunteers will support the implementation of Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC). WFP also distributed 5,000 MAICYN training manuals for the SBCC roll-out.

Assessments

In February, WFP conducted a market assessment to inform decisions around the feasibility of cash transfers for refugees. The assessment revealed the availability of functional markets, although food prices had increased by around 34 percent since last year.

A desk review is ongoing to assess the impact of COVID-19 on the food security and livelihoods in high-risk urban and peri-urban settings, which will inform WFP response accordingly.

Challenges

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, some activities were put on hold or implemented at a limited scale to minimize human-to-human contact. Alternative implementation options, including for school feeding and interventions requiring face-to-face training, are being explored.

Under the drought response, food deliveries and distributions have been hampered by several factors, including funding limitations, longer lead time for the procurement of pulses, insufficient allocation of maize meal by the Government, changes in government pre-agreed targeting criteria, and reduced capacity of cooperating partners.

Funding constraints forced WFP to halve refugees' entitlement starting from April, and the transfer value for cash transfers' first roll-out scheduled in May. Full entitlements will resume as additional funding is secured.

Donors

Donors to WFP Zambia in 2020 include Canada, Germany, Green Climate Fund (GCF), Ireland, Italy, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, UNICEF and the United States of America (in alphabetical order). Additional support has been provided by UN CERF.