



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief May 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 impact 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.

Under the Zambia Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019–2024, WFP provides food assistance to vulnerable and food-insecure people, including on-demand logistics support during emergencies. WFP also supports integrated nutrition and smallholder farmer support 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.



Population: **17.4 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **143 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

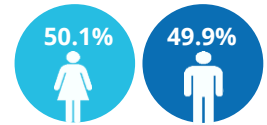
Stunting: **35% of children aged 6–59 months**

In Numbers

1,621.15 mt food assistance distributed

US\$ 16.48 million six-month (May–October 2020) net funding requirements

223,087 people assisted in MAY 2020



Operational Updates

In May, WFP used cash-based transfers (CBT) through mobile money to assist 1,521 refugees, who still depend on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic food and nutrition needs, distributing a total of USD 7,000. Due to limited resources, each refugee received a reduced ration and CBT equivalent. Full entitlements for both cash and food will resume in June, as WFP has secured funding. WFP plans to scale up CBT to reach 5,000 refugees by July 2020 as part of efforts to transition from food to cash.

WFP continued to support the Government in responding to the needs triggered 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. In May, WFP delivered 1,510 mt of WFP-procured beans and peas, reaching 209,336 people in five districts in eastern, southern and western provinces.

In May, WFP delivered 1,940 mt of government-supplied maize meal and beans to 19 districts affected by flash floods during the 2019/2020 rainy season in central, northern and eastern parts of Zambia, enough to cover the needs of 260,000 people. This followed a request by the Zambian Government to deliver 3,200 mt of food commodities to 32 districts where over 1.4 million people were affected by floods.

Access to formal markets remains a key challenge among smallholder farmers. In May, WFP continued to support smallholder farmers through partnerships that can provide them with increased access to formal, predictable and sustainable markets. An agreement was signed between WFP and the Lusaka Securities Exchange (LuSE) to strengthen farmers' access to markets through the Warehouse Receipt System (WRS), jointly managed with the Zambian Commodity Exchange. This platform provides smallholders with a simple and transparent platform to trade their produce, contributing to increase their sales and income. WFP continued to enhance market access through the aggregation model, with 109 intermediary and 541 micro-aggregators linking farmers to 11 final off-takers, who will be purchasing a variety of commodities during the 2020/2021 crop marketing season, which is expected to resume in June.

In May, WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture continued to support smallholder farmers' resilience to shocks by training government staff in 14 districts in post-harvest management, market access, and financial services. The trained staff will further cascade the training to the community.

Contact: Christopher Katete (Christopher.katete@wfp.org)
Country Director: Jennifer Bitonde
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/zambia

and Mapping (mVAM) platform to digitally collect food security monitoring data.

WFP plans to start a pilot CBT in June, targeting an initial 182,000 low-income people affected by COVID-19 in the peri and urban compounds of Lusaka, with plans to expand into more vulnerable and low-income earners in Livingstone, Kafue, Lusaka and Kitwe districts.

WFP, working with other nutrition partners, government agencies and the private sector, has designed a Healthy Diet Campaign to promote the production and consumption of healthy and diversified diets. In May, the contracted media house (Media 365) finalised the development of the campaign strategy and successfully pre-tested the key campaign messages, with over 70 percent of the people who participated in the pre-tests indicating that the messages were easy (or very easy) to understand, persuasive (or very persuasive), believable and relevant.

Inadequate dietary diversity is among key drivers of malnutrition in Zambia. WFP continued to work 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. In May, eight more units were installed in eight schools in five districts, bringing the total to 20 pilot units established in 20 schools in 12 districts. The gardens will enable school children to have a healthy and balanced diet, while supporting smallholder farmers and the local economy.

Monitoring

A CBT process monitoring was conducted among the refugees following the CBT roll-out in the WFP-supported refugee settlement of Mantapala to establish perceptions of the target population on cash-based assistance. Monitoring results revealed that the majority of the refugees who received CBT were satisfied with the cash and the payment process, and 99 percent indicated they would use the cash to buy food. Findings revealed that women participated in making spending decisions in the households.

Challenges

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, WFP continued to implement some activities at a limited scale to minimize human-to-human contact, while continuing putting in place preventative measures. Alternative implementation options, including radio programmes, are being explored and used to sustain key operational activities.

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.

Country Strategic Plan (2019–2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
135.35 m*	23.4 m	16.48 m

*The total funding requirements include USD 23.57 million under the ongoing budget revision for WFP's COVID-19 response.

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.

In preparation for the rollout of market and price monitoring activities as part of the COVID-19 response, WFP identified and engaged 100 traders in 20 markets (five traders per market) in Lusaka, Kafue, Livingstone and Kitwe districts who will be providing market information on availability and prices of food commodities. Five identified markets will be monitored in each district. Market and price monitoring information will help increase awareness on the impact of COVID-19 on prices of staples and other essential commodities. To minimize human-to-human contact during monitoring, WFP will use its mobile Vulnerability Analysis