



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Zambia Country Brief August 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**

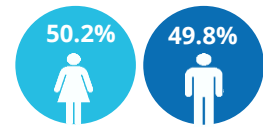
Stunting: **35% of children aged 6–59 months**

## In Numbers

**294.705 mt** of food assistance distributed (for August and September)

**USD 3.29 m** cash distributed to crisis-affected people

**215,990 people** assisted in August 2020



## Operational Updates

Under its cash assistance for the COVID-19 response, WFP reached 36,311 households (181,555 people) with cash assistance by the end of August 2020. WFP and the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) initially targeted 180,000 people residing in low-income and high-density urban areas of Lusaka and Kafue, with a plan to scale up to reach 656,000 people in four districts (Lusaka, Kafue, Livingstone and Kitwe) based on available resources. As COVID-19 confirmed cases continued to rise, WFP and MCDSS distributed four months' worth of rations in two batches (July and August), with each family receiving a total of ZMW 1,600 (USD 80) to allow them to purchase food in bulk and avoid frequent visits to pay points and markets which are usually overcrowded.

Following the rapid food security vulnerability assessment it conducted in Lusaka and Kafue districts in June, WFP is analysing data collected from another assessment undertaken in Kitwe and Livingstone districts as part of preparations for the scale up of the COVID-19 response in these two districts.

During the month, WFP facilitated a Training of Trainers (ToT), where 50 national and district-level staff from the Ministries of General Education and Agriculture were trained on hydroponics. The training will be cascaded to staff, school children and other stakeholders in the 22 schools where hydroponics gardens were established, with the aim to promote ownership of the systems among school staff and schoolchildren and ensure sustainability of the project. WFP supported the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) in establishing 24 hydroponics gardens to promote the production and consumption of diverse nutritious foods in schools in targeted drought-prone districts. Establishing gardens in schools will enable MoGE to provide healthy and balanced diets to school children while also supporting smallholder farmers and the local economy.

As climate change continues to adversely affect the production and productivity of smallholder farmers in Zambia, WFP has been providing capacity strengthening support to the Government and communities on risk management in order to build the smallholders' resilience to climate shocks as well as enhance their recovery from such hazards. In August, WFP facilitated the training of government staff to create awareness of the weather index insurance, a risk transfer tool which enables smallholder farmers to access compensation for losses suffered as a result of variabilities in weather events. A total of

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**Photo:** WFP Zambia/Paul Mboshya

*Beneficiaries of the COVID-19 cash assistance in Lusaka's Chaisa township*

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
112.4 m*	46.3 m	0

\*WFP is undertaking a USD 22 million budget revision for its COVID-19 response 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.

136 government staff (116 marketing and development officers from 116 districts and 20 staff from the 10 provinces) were trained through the newly established inter-ministerial working group.

WFP continued to provide support to the Ministry of Health and the National Food and Nutrition Commission to roll out the Healthy Diets Campaign, a nationwide nutrition campaign aimed at promoting the production and consumption of diverse, healthy foods. In August, a local media house contracted to implement the campaign developed a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan and tools for tracking trends in consumer behaviours during the implementation of the campaign, which is scheduled to commence later this year. Three brand ambassadors (local celebrities) were also hired to better promote the consumption of healthy diets.

## Monitoring

WFP conducted three monitoring exercises in August, including a post-payout monitoring under the smallholder support programme, following insurance compensation to smallholders impacted by the 2019/2020 drought. A distribution and post-distribution monitoring were also undertaken in Lusaka and Kafue districts, following the commencement of cash assistance for vulnerable urban people impacted by COVID-19. Results from the monitoring exercise in Lusaka and Kafue revealed that in August, 94 percent of the assisted households frequently consumed diverse diets compared to 86 percent reported in the rapid food security vulnerability impact assessment in June. Improvements in the consumption of diverse diets could be attributed to the cash assistance provided by WFP and MCDSS to the beneficiary households.

## Challenges

When WFP introduced its emergency cash assistance programme targeting food-insecure and vulnerable urban households in Lusaka and Kafue, some households faced challenges to redeem their cash through mobile money services, mainly due to low levels of education and consequent limited knowledge in cash redemption process among the targeted people. In response, WFP, MCDSS and other relevant stakeholders, increased beneficiary sensitization through various channels and local languages, including through public announcements, phone and radio messages, as well by engaging communities and leveraging the role of community leaders and faith-based organizations. Community Welfare Assistant Committees were also used to convey messages door to door. To complement existing government grievance mechanisms, WFP started setting up helpdesks in strategic locations in the targeted urban compounds and activated a hotline number that beneficiaries can call to receive information or provide feedback on the programme.

## 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.