



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief September 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**

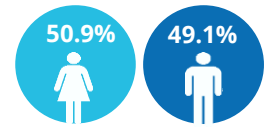
Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

USD 72,912 six months (October 2020-March 2021) net funding requirements

219,870 people assisted in September 2020



Operational Updates

Following a WFP rapid food security assessment conducted in Livingstone and Kitwe districts in July and August, WFP commenced preparatory works to expand its COVID-19 cash assistance into the two districts. During the month, WFP carried out inception visits to Livingstone to introduce the programme to the district stakeholders and to appreciate the operational context, with similar exercise scheduled for Kitwe district in October. The assessment revealed that some 131,300 people living in high density and low-income urban areas of Livingstone and Kitwe are food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance due to the impacts of COVID-19. Overall, WFP is targeting some 322,000 people in four districts (Lusaka, Kitwe, Kafue and Livingstone), with 181,555 people already assisted in Lusaka and Kafue so far. In addition to the 181,555 people it assisted under its COVID-19 response, WFP also provided assistance to 14,000 refugees and 24,315 Zambians under the integrated smallholder and nutrition support initiatives, bringing the total to 219,870 people assisted in September.

In preparation for the 2020 Long Lasting Insecticide-Treated Nets (LLINs) mass distribution campaign under the National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP), WFP and the Ministry of Health (MoH) jointly facilitated the training of trainers (ToTs) for 126 district health officials (environmental technicians, stores officers and Malaria focal points) in Copperbelt, Central and North Western provinces. The targeted staff were trained in logistics and warehousing management of LLINs. Due to its expertise in logistics support services, WFP has been one of government's logistics partners in the implementation of LLINs mass distribution campaigns since 2014. The district level ToT workshop followed a national level training facilitated by WFP in June, which targeted 25 MoH staff.

In September, WFP collaborated with the Lusaka Securities Exchange (LuSE) and the Zambia Commodity Exchange (ZAMACE) to train 40 staff from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), implementing partners and selected intermediary aggregators on the Warehouse Receipt System (WRS). The WRS is an instrument that helps farmers, small- and medium-sized enterprises and exporters to store their agricultural produce in a certified warehouse and receive a warehouse receipt which they can use to access market and credit, jointly managed by LuSE and ZAMACE. In the coming months, the participants will cascade the training to field staff who will in turn begin to generate WRS awareness among smallholder farmers to enhance their access to diversified commodity markets through this platform.

WFP also facilitated the training of 21 staff from the MoA and the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) on the Savings for Change model to enable them to facilitate the formation and management of saving groups among smallholder farmers. Through the savings groups, WFP will enhance smallholders' financial inclusion to help them diversify their livelihoods and increase their agricultural investment.

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Photo: WFP Zambia/Paul Mboshya

A pupil at Ngombe Primary School in Lusaka gazes at a seedling due for planting using hydroponics technology

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
142.0 m*	49.9 m	72,912

* WFP's USD 29.6 million budget revision was approved in September, with COVID-19 response included and a fifth strategic outcome on service provision introduced.

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.

WFP has continued to provide technical assistance to the Government in order to enhance the Government's ability to deliver food and nutrition interventions to those in need. In the reporting period, WFP started supporting MCDSS in reviewing and finalizing nutrition-sensitive social protection guidelines. The

guidelines will entrench nutrition-sensitive programming, contributing to improved nutrition outcomes through social protection.

As part of start-up activities for the early recovery and resilience programme, WFP completed baseline data collection in the five targeted districts of Gwembe, Kalomo, Monze, Shang'ombo and Sioma, which will measure programme performance against planned targets. The programme is a two-year intervention designed to help over 104,000 smallholder farmers recover from the effects of the worst drought experienced in Zambia during the 2018/19 farming season, as well as enhance their ability to withstand future shocks. The intervention also targets 33,300 school children who will receive school meals with food locally procured from smallholder farmers.

Following the launch of the national Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) strategy in July, WFP and the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) held a meeting to review 2020 activities and progress, and plan for 2021. New activities were added to the work plan, including on nutrition education and production units (hydroponics gardens) for the HGSM programme, in line with the HGSM strategy. Capacity development activities will be undertaken in view of the planned expansion of the programme to reach an additional 500,000 school children in 18 more districts, increasing programme coverage to 1.5 million school children in 57 districts. The meeting drew participation from key line ministries and government agencies.

In September, WFP, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Government and other partners, with support from the Joint WFP/UNHCR Programme Excellence and Targeting Hub, started conducting needs-based assessments at the Mantapala Refugee Settlement in Nchelenge District. The assessment aimed at developing a common understanding of refugees' food security and socio-economic needs to inform needs-based targeting in lieu of status-based targeting. Data analysis is currently ongoing, while preparations are underway to extend the assessment to Meheba and Mayukwayukwa settlements, in North Western and Western provinces. The assessment will provide recommendations to inform the development of a needs-based strategy to target and assist refugees to enhance their self-reliance.

Monitoring

Following the payment of the second batch of cash to 181,555 people impacted by COVID-19, WFP conducted several monitoring exercises including: a distribution monitoring in Lusaka and Kafue districts to obtain information from beneficiaries pertaining to awareness of entitlements, distribution processes, and beneficiary satisfaction with WFP assistance; and an outcome monitoring conducted at the Mantapala Refugee Settlement to assess the performance of the refugee response during the third quarter of 2020, with data analysis currently ongoing.

WFP also continued to conduct marketing monitoring using its mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) platform, with preliminary findings from the July-August exercise showing a drop of up to 23 percent in the prices of maize meal in the monitored districts, although prices of non-cereals, particularly beans, increased by almost 3 percent. Moreover, due to COVID-19, whose impacts have threatened food security and food systems, WFP continued to conduct countrywide food security monitoring exercise during the month using a contracted partner. The exercise is aimed at providing critical information on the food security situation in the country to allow WFP to adjust its response accordingly.

Donors

Donors to WFP Zambia in 2020 include Canada, European Commission, 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.