



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief October 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**

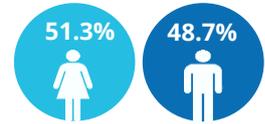
In Numbers

313.34 mt food assistance distributed

US\$ 81,971 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0 six-month (November 2020 – April 2021) net funding requirements

49,571 people assisted in October 2020



Operational Updates

In October, as part of the expansion of the COVID-19 emergency cash assistance programme to an additional 131,000 people impacted by the pandemic, WFP completed the registration of 27,800 identified food insecure households in high density and low-income urban and peri-urban areas of Livingstone, Kitwe and Kalulushi districts. Since July, WFP has been implementing the cash assistance programme targeting a total of 322,000 people impacted by COVID-19 in Lusaka, Kafue, Kitwe, Kalulushi and Livingstone districts, with 181,555 already assisted in Lusaka and Kafue so far.

During the month, WFP conducted the second double distribution of food and cash to the refugees at the WFP-supported Mantapala Refugee Settlement, reaching a total of 14,667 people (50.3 percent women and girls) – 313 mt of food commodities and ZMW 1.64 million (approximately USD 82,000) were distributed to 9,514 refugees and 5,153 refugees, respectively. The double distributions covering refugees' needs for two months were initiated in August as part of the measures to limit contact with the refugees to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the settlement. WFP also continued to implement nutrition education radio programmes to reach the refugees and host communities with nutrition messages.

WFP also reached 15,763 people through its nutrition activities and 19,141 people under its smallholder support programme, bringing the total number of people assisted in October, including refugees, to 49,571.

In the reported month, WFP supported the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) to train 95 district level staff coming from 18 districts recently enrolled in the Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) programme as part of enhancing the ministry's capacity to effectively manage the programme. The training focused on planning, warehousing, food handling and reporting. With the additional districts, MoGE is increasing the coverage of the HGSM programme to 57 districts in 2020 to reach 1.5 million school children from the 1 million children currently being reached in 39 districts.

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

Photo: WFP Zambia/Christopher Katete - A member of a nutrition group explains the different food types mothers prepare for their children, Mongu.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 142.0 m* | 52.2 m | 0 |

* WFP's USD 29.6 million budget revision was approved in September 2020, with COVID-19 response included and a fifth strategic outcome on service provision introduced.

Strategic Result 01: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 01: 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 02: End Malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 02: 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 03: Smallholder Resilience

Strategic Outcome 03: 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 smallholder farmers.

Strategic Result 04: Capacity Strengthening

Strategic Outcome 04: Government institutions in Zambia have more efficient, effective and shock-responsive social protection systems that contribute to the achievement of SDG2.

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.

Strategic Result 05: Service Provision

Strategic Outcome 05: Provide on-demand service provision to the Government, private sector, development partners and United Nations agencies

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provision of logistics and technical advisory support

In October, WFP supported MoGE in setting up 11 hydroponics systems in Central, Copperbelt, and Southern provinces, bringing the total systems installed in eight districts to 14. Besides being used for nutrition education in schools, the hydroponics gardens will be used by schools to diversify the food basket in the supported schools and enhance the incomes of the schools through the production and sale of fresh vegetables. Moreover, as part of capacity strengthening, WFP trained teachers, pupils and parents on how to effectively manage the systems.

In the reported month, WFP in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) supported the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MFL) to roll out the livestock index insurance aimed at protecting livestock farmers from losses resulting from shocks, allowing them to obtain feed for their livestock. WFP's support to the MFL focused on technical support for the design of the tailored insurance product and on building the ministry's capacity to manage the programme. IFAD's support involved financing the initial premiums for the farmers as part of private sector market development. Once fully operationalized, the livestock index insurance will benefit some 600,000 livestock farmers vulnerable to climate-related shocks and other natural hazards.

In October, the country's Vice President, Mrs Inonge Wina, launched the Healthy Diets Campaign (a nationwide health and nutrition promotion campaign) and the Good Food Logo (a front of pack certification mark for food products meeting set nutrition criteria). The two initiatives, which are aimed at raising awareness on healthy diets and helping people make better food choices for improved nutrition, were designed by the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) with technical support from WFP. Following their launch, MoH and NFNC commenced the implementation of social and behaviour change communication campaign activities via the media and social media. Moreover, food products from 25 companies meeting the Good Food Logo criteria have already been certified by the Zambia Bureau of Standards. The initiatives are being implemented under the Scaling Up Nutrition Business Network (SBN).

Monitoring

Results from the quarterly outcome monitoring survey conducted at the refugee settlement in September indicate that 88.5 percent of the refugee households frequently consumed diverse diets in September compared to 86.6 percent reported in June. Additionally, more refugees (96.9 percent) on cash assistance consumed diverse diets compared to 80.2 percent of those on in-kind food assistance, indicating that cash assistance programme contributed to increased dietary diversity. During the month, WFP also conducted a post-distribution monitoring exercise in Lusaka and Kafue following the second round of cash distribution to people impacted by COVID-19. Findings indicate that 91.8 percent of the beneficiary households consumed diverse diets, compared to 86 percent reported before the WFP COVID-19 response was rolled out in July.

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.