



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief November 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**

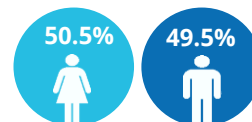
Stunting: **35% of children aged 6–59 months**

In Numbers

US\$ 822,218 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0 six-month (December 2020 – May 2021) net funding requirements

168,105 people assisted
in November 2020



Operational Updates

In November, WFP assisted 168,105 people, of which 14,667 were refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and 104,730 people impacted by COVID-19. Additionally, WFP reached 20,500 people through its nutrition initiatives and supported 28,208 smallholder farmers through its resilience strengthening activities.

As part of its continued support to urban populations impacted by COVID-19 in Zambia, WFP provided cash assistance to 20,946 vulnerable households (104,730 people) in the six targeted urban districts of Lusaka, Kafue, Kitwe, Kalulushi, Livingstone and Chilanga, distributing a total of ZMW 16.8 million (approximately USD 822,000). Each household received ZMW 800 (about USD 38) to cover their food and nutrition needs for two months. WFP has been providing cash assistance since July, targeting 322,000 people, with 223,735 people already assisted so far.

In November, WFP partnered with a local company, Zambian Breweries Plc, to support 1,000 smallholder farmers in Gwembe and Pemba districts to enhance their productivity and incomes by providing a market for their sorghum production. Through this partnership, smallholder farmers will be supported to access high-yielding sorghum seeds, basal and top dressing fertilizer, receive training on crop management and agricultural extension services, while their crops will be insured against climate shocks. Smallholders will also receive training in conservation agriculture, post-harvest loss management, commodity aggregation and financial literacy.

In November, WFP facilitated a series of meetings for the end of the 2020/2021 agricultural marketing season, in Chipata, Siavonga and Livingstone districts, and involved 108 participants from the Ministry of Agriculture, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations drawn from 41 districts. The meetings aimed at sharing information on market trends and dynamics and at showcasing the achievements of the WFP-supported commodity aggregation model – a 3-tier private-sector-led marketing approach that enhances the efficiency of the commodities' supply chains and allows farmers to access larger, more diverse and sustainable markets. Despite the ongoing pandemic, significant commodity volumes were traded this marketing season compared to the previous one, providing a sustainable market for smallholder farmers and

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Photo: WFP Zambia/Christopher Katete - An adolescent mother and her child who are among people supported through WFP nutrition interventions in Katete District

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
142.0 m*	50.90 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

contributing to their resilience against the pandemic. By the end of the marketing season, over 21,800 smallholder farmers (78 percent women) had bulked and sold some 23,600 mt of various food commodities, valued at USD 3.3 million, to the larger buyers and processors.

In November, WFP supported the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) with the rollout of the web-based Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Food Tracking System (FTS), which tracks the movement of commodities from procurement to consumption and ensures improved commodity accountability in the HGSF programme. WFP also facilitated the training of over 50 national and district level MoGE staff to build their capacity to effectively manage the system.

WFP also continued to support MoGE in setting up six additional hydroponics gardens in various districts (Nyimba, Petauke, Katete, and Lundazi) in Eastern Province, bringing the total number of functional hydroponics gardens to 19 out of the planned 23. Apart from being used for nutrition education in schools, the hydroponics gardens will also be used by schools to diversify the food basket provided to the children as part of their school meals.

In November, WFP, working with the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) through the District Nutrition Coordination Committees in Petauke, Mumbwa, Monze and Mazabuka districts, trained 150 religious leaders in nutrition messaging. This is part of the Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) activities that WFP and NFNC are implementing to improve nutrition outcomes. Once fully orientated, the religious leaders will play a key role in disseminating nutrition messages to their followers to contribute to improved nutrition in their communities.

From 16 to 27 November 2020, WFP conducted a market assessment in Nchelenge, Chiengi, Kawambwa and Mansa districts to establish the functionality of the markets ahead of the full transition of all the Congolese refugees at the WFP-supported Mantapala Refugee Settlement to cash assistance by early 2021. The assessment focused on price trends of food commodities (to inform the basket value of the cash assistance), and on ascertaining food availability and the capacity of the markets to meet increased demand for food. Preliminary findings indicate that markets are functional and ready to support an increased demand for food items, although a surging inflation and the continued depreciation of the local currency pose serious challenges to the stability of commodity prices.

Monitoring

Through its mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) platform, WFP continued to remotely monitor households' food security in the districts where it is implementing its COVID-19 response. Findings from the September/October monitoring exercise show a general increase in food prices, with a 25-kilogramme bag of breakfast mealie meal increasing by almost 5 percent between August and October 2020. Roller mealie meal also increased by over 6 percent during the same period, while the price of a 5-kilogramme bag of beans increased by about 14 percent. The increases can be attributed to rising food inflation and the depreciating local currency.

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.