



# WFP Zambia Country Brief December 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## 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: **17.8 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **146 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

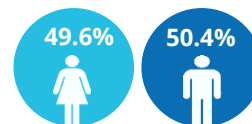
## In Numbers

**169.31 mt** food assistance distributed

**US\$ 1,585,640** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 965,313** six-month (January – June 2021) net funding requirements

**280,845 people assisted** in DECEMBER 2020



## Operational Updates

In December, WFP provided assistance to 280,845 people, of which 15,418 were refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and 202,695 people impacted by COVID-19. Meanwhile, 45,301 people were reached through smallholder farmer resilience and 17,431 people through nutrition support interventions.

Under the COVID-19 response, WFP provided cash assistance to COVID-19 impacted 40,539 urban households (202,695 people), disbursing a total of ZMW 32.4 million (equivalent to USD 1.5 million) in Livingstone, Kitwe, Kalulushi, Lusaka, Chilanga and Kafue districts. Each household received ZMW 800 (about USD 38) to cover the food and nutrition needs for two months. By the end of December, WFP reached a total of 61,485 households (307,425 people) in the six districts.

WFP distributed agricultural inputs to over 18,758 smallholder farmers in five drought-prone districts (Gwembe, Monze, Kalomo, Sioma and Shang'ombo). This is part of the recovery support targeting smallholder farmers impacted by the drought of the 2018/2019 farming season. The distributed inputs include 77 mt of cowpeas seeds, 37 mt of sorghum, 37 mt of orange maize seed, and 318 mt of cassava cuttings. The four local agro-dealers distributed the inputs which were procured locally from input suppliers. In addition, WFP, in collaboration with the Zambian Breweries, provided input packs to 701 smallholder farmers in Gwembe and Pemba districts under an outgrower arrangement aimed at increasing the production of sorghum. The input packs comprise of sorghum seed, fertilizer and other inputs, enough to cover half a hectare of crop field.

WFP has continued to promote financial inclusion among targeted communities. In December, 11 savings groups in Mongu and Kaoma districts shared out a total of ZMW 430,880 (about USD 20,542), benefiting 251 people (72 percent women), each receiving an average of USD 82. While post-share-out monitoring is yet to be conducted, evidence from 2019 shows that people who received share-outs invested in farm inputs and equipment to improve their production and productivity, while others started up small businesses.

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

Photo: WFP Zambia/Paul Mboshya - A WFP-supported smallholder farmer in Monze receiving seed from a WFP staff as part of the drought recovery intervention

## 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	965,313

\* 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 addition, WFP completed the training of 560 savings animators across 16 districts in December. The animators were trained on the Savings for Change model to facilitate the formation and management of savings groups. In 2021, they are expected to spearhead the formation of 1,680 savings groups to enhance financial inclusion in the communities, including smallholder farmers.

As part of continued efforts to support the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) in delivering nutrition education in schools and diversifying the food basket provided to school children, WFP and MoGE set up three hydroponics gardens in schools in Kaoma and Mongu districts, and trained 70 people (including teachers, schoolchildren, community members and community leaders) in the management of hydroponics production units. Moreover, WFP and MoGE finalized the installation of 12 hydroponics gardens in Shang'ombo and Gwembe districts. Overall, between July 2019 and December 2020, WFP has installed 34 hydroponics gardens in 16 districts across the country, out of which 22 are currently functional.

While the fresh vegetables harvested from the hydroponics gardens are meant to complement the schools' food basket to improve schoolchildren's nutrition, some schools have managed to produce a surplus, allowing them to sell the excess and re-invest the income in vegetable production or to meet other school needs. WFP, in liaison with MoGE, has facilitated the development of guidelines to harmonize the utilization of the realized incomes from the sale of surplus of fresh vegetables across the schools. The guidelines are currently pending MoGE endorsement.

## Monitoring

In December, WFP conducted an outcome monitoring exercise in districts where it is implementing resilience activities and two post-distribution monitoring exercises at the WFP-supported Mantapala Refugee Settlement and in the six districts (Lusaka, Chilanga, Kafue, Livingstone, Kitwe and Kalulushi) where it is implementing the COVID-19 cash assistance programme. While data analysis is ongoing for the three exercises, preliminary findings from the six districts indicate that almost all the surveyed households (96 percent) were satisfied with the cash payments received. Most of them (81 percent) knew about the targeting criteria attributed to increased sensitization efforts, with 99 percent indicating that they were satisfied with the beneficiary selection.

## Challenges

In December, Zambia entered a second wave of the pandemic, and reported a more contagious and fast-spreading variant of the coronavirus, characterized by sharp increases in the number of cases and deaths. The evolution of the pandemic threatens the food security of vulnerable populations and may likely impact WFP operations due to restricted movement of staff and the consequent scale-down or suspension of the implementation of some programme activities in the event of lockdowns.

## Donors

Donors to WFP Zambia in 2020 include Canada, European Commission, Germany, Green Climate Fund (GCF), Ireland, Italy, Private Donors, Sweden, Switzerland, UNICEF and the United States of America (in alphabetical order). Additional support has been provided by UN CERF.