Operational Context

Landlocked and with a population of 17.8 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 disease (COVID-19) pandemic, 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.

In Numbers

- **6,469 mt** food assistance distributed
- **US$ 1.7 million** cash-based transfers made
- **US$ 279,845** six-month (April – September 2021) net funding requirements
- **320,463 people assisted** in FEBRUARY 2021

Operational Updates

In February, WFP assisted 320,463 people, including 15,820 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with food and cash assistance, 213,245 vulnerable urban people under the COVID-19 cash assistance programme, 18,628 people through nutrition improvement interventions and 59,643 people through smallholder support activities. The remaining 11,204 people were reached through social protection and capacity-strengthening interventions.

WFP continued to implement its COVID-19 response, reaching 42,649 households (213,245 people) across the targeted six districts (Chilanga, Kafue, Kalulushi, Kitwe, Livingstone and Lusaka). Each household received ZMW 800 (USD 37.5) to cover its needs for two months for a total of ZMW 34.12 million (about USD 1.6 million) disbursed. Following successful piloting of payments targeting 300 households using an alternative local financial service provider, in March, WFP will scale up payments to around 20,000 households using the new payment platform.

Additionally, following assessments of the redemption rates which revealed that some households had not regularly redeemed their cash, WFP commenced the re-validation of beneficiary details. The exercise is expected to lead to improved cash redemption rates, currently standing at about 75 percent.

WFP supported the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) in developing a plan to set up 15 school gardens in five districts (Chirundu, Chama, Luangwa, Nyimba and Katete) to integrate nutrition into its programming. Once the gardens are operational, schools will be producing fresh vegetables and benefit approximately 8,000 schoolchildren through improved access to diversified school meals. In addition, the gardens will be used as sites for practical lessons on nutrition education and for transferring skills on agricultural production to schoolchildren. Meanwhile, by the end of February, over 2,000 schoolchildren had already benefitted from the assorted fresh vegetables harvested at their schools, after three hydroponics gardens were installed in three primary schools in Gwembe District in January 2021.

During the month under review, WFP provided 39 computers, multi-functional printers, and tablets to the farming couple in their cassava and groundnut field during crop growth monitoring in Siona District.

Population: **17.8 million**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2019 Human Development Index: **146**

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

**Contact info:** Christopher Katete (christopher.katete@wfp.org)

**Country Director:** Jennifer Bitonde

**Further information:** [www.wfp.org/countries/zambia](http://www.wfp.org/countries/zambia)
### Country Strategic Plan (2019–2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic Result 01:</strong> Everyone has access to food</td>
<td>142.0 m</td>
<td>51.51 m</td>
<td>279,845</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 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: No one suffers from 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: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes

**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: Food systems are sustainable

**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: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

**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

MoGE to support the phased roll-out of the web-based Food Tracking System (FTS). The equipment will help strengthen the ministry’s data management capacity as it implements the FTS in schools under the Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) programme. The FTS was developed in 2020 on behalf of the MoGE to track the movement of commodities from procurement to consumption, ensuring improved commodity accountability in the HGSM programme. The MoGE will gradually extend the system to 12 districts to reach 120 schools during the year, after it was successfully piloted in 10 schools in Mumbwa District the previous year.

As part of continued technical assistance to the Government on climate risk financing, WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to collect key agronomic data to inform the re-development of the weather index insurance product under the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP). Data was collected from 702 agricultural camps in the targetted 116 districts. Once re-designed, the weather index insurance will benefit approximately one million smallholder farmers enrolled under the FISP programme, protecting them from climatic shocks and enabling them to better recover.

WFP and the Zambia Agricultural Research Institute conducted a two-day virtual training on Good Agricultural Practices, targeting staff from MoA and cooperating partners (CP) operating in Gwembe and Pemba districts, with the aim to enhance extension services for smallholder farmers. The trained staff (10 MoA camp extension officers and 12 CPs) are expected to support 1,000 smallholder farmers who are producing sorghum under the Sorghum Out-grower Scheme, being implemented by WFP and Zambian Breweries in the two districts.

### Monitoring

WFP conducted post-distribution monitoring (PDM) in three COVID-19 response districts (Kalulushi, Kitwe and Lusaka) from 10 to 17 February. In the remaining three districts, distributions had not taken place by the time of the PDM. Finds indicate improvements in food security situation in the monitored districts, with 91.6 percent of people frequently consuming diverse diets across all the three districts compared to 77 percent in December 2020. Moreover, only 8.4 percent of households reported poor food consumption score in February 2021 compared to over 23 percent in December 2020.

WFP also conducted a PDM in Nchelenge District where WFP implements the refugee response; initial results showed 84.7 percent of the refugees on cash assistance had higher borderline and acceptable food consumption scores compared to 81.7 percent of beneficiaries on in-kind food assistance. Additionally, WFP participated in a Multi-Sectoral Rapid Needs Assessment in Meheba Refugee Settlement to understand the needs of the newly arriving Congolese refugees for informed targeting and assistance support.

### Donors

Donors to WFP Zambia in 2020 include Canada, European Commission, Germany, Green Climate Fund (GCF), Ireland, Private Donors, Sweden, Switzerland, UNICEF and the United States of America (in alphabetical order).