



WFP Zambia Country Brief April 2021

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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.



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**

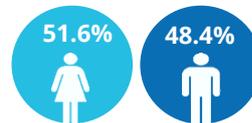
In Numbers

6.135 mt food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.26 million cash-based transfers made

US\$ 405,906 six-month (May – October 2021) net funding requirements

145,938 people assisted in APRIL 2021



Operational Updates

In April, WFP disbursed ZMW 24.7 million (about USD 1.1 million) to 74,830 beneficiaries (14,966 households) under the COVID-19 emergency cash assistance programme. From July 2020 to April 2021, WFP and the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) implemented the COVID-19 response, targeting 322,000 vulnerable urban people (64,415 households) impacted by COVID-19 in six urban districts (Chilanga, Kafue, Kalulushi, Kitwe, Livingstone and Lusaka). April marked the end of the response, with a total of ZMW 148.7 million (USD 7.8 million) disbursed to 312,000 people in 62,400 households (97 percent of the target). Each household received a total of ZMW 2,400 (USD 73), translating to ZMW 400 (USD 18) per month, to help them meet their food and nutrition needs for a total of six months.

From 27-29 April, WFP participated in the National Nutrition Conference organized by the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) and the Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUN TA) Project. During the conference, WFP and NFNC disseminated the findings of the Fill the Nutrient Gap analysis (FNG) to around 100 participants from the Government, United Nations agencies, NGOs, donors and other stakeholders in the nutrition sector. WFP and the NFNC launched the FNG in 2020 to identify barriers vulnerable populations face in accessing and consuming healthy and nutritious foods and to recommend strategies for addressing the identified barriers.

WFP rolled out the Virtual Farmers Market (VFM) application to 110 intermediary aggregators in 28 districts of Central, Eastern, Southern, Muchinga, Lusaka and Western provinces. The VFM, an e-commerce digital platform that enables farmers and buyers to exchange market information and trade surplus commodities, was rolled out in partnership with Digital PayGO – a locally contracted financial service provider. WFP also facilitated the training of 49 staff from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and United Nations Development Programme on the use of the application. Smallholder farmers and commodity buyers can now download/access the app through online play stores or Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) code *277# on local mobile network providers, MTN and ZAMTEL. Nearly 400 traders and smallholder farmers have already accessed the app. During the rollout, WFP facilitated networking sessions involving intermediary aggregators, financial institutions (banks), and off-takers of agricultural produce to enhance trade with the smallholders through the aggregation network.

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Photo: WFP Zambia/Catherine Zulu - A smallholder farmer in her maize field in Pemba District.

Country Strategic Plan (2019–2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
142.0 m	51.51 m	405,906

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

In preparation for the 2021/22 crop marketing season starting in June, WFP contracted 35 intermediary aggregators in six provinces (Southern, Eastern, Central, Luapula, Northern and Muchinga) to supply 2,000 mt of pulses purchased from smallholder farmers. This is part of WFP's effort to empower smallholders by buying commodities from them through the Global Commodity Management Facility, an internal mechanism for procuring and pre-positioning food stock.

Capacity strengthening is a key component of WFP's interventions in Zambia. In April, WFP facilitated the Training of Trainers (ToTs) for 124 staff from the MoA, MCDSS, and the cooperating partners (Care International and IDE) from 16 districts in seven provinces (Eastern, Luapula, Lusaka, Muchinga, North-western, Southern and Western). The training aimed to strengthen the capacities of the partners' staff in implementing savings for change and post-harvest management activities under the second phase of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN II) intervention implemented in 17 districts across Zambia. The trained staff will cascade the savings for change and post-harvest management trainings to smallholder farmers, producer groups, camp extension staff, and other targeted community members.

Nutrition education and enhanced vegetable production are some of the ways WFP uses to support national efforts in diversifying school meals for improved education and nutrition outcomes among schoolchildren. During the month, WFP and the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) trained 50 school hydroponics focal persons and members of parent-teacher committees in crop management and pest control to build their capacities in effective management of hydroponics gardens installed at three schools (Gwembe, Hauma and Luumbo primary schools) in Gwembe District. WFP also conducted district-level ToTs for 20 staff from MoA, MoGE and the cooperating partner, Self Help Africa, in the district. In 2021, WFP is supporting MoGE to install 24 hydroponics systems in 24 schools in Gwembe and Shang'ombo districts as part of its early recovery interventions in districts affected by the droughts during the 2018/2019 farming season.

Assessments

Following a joint needs assessment conducted by WFP and UNHCR with support from the Joint WFP-UNHCR Programme of Excellence and Targeting Hub, results revealed that nearly 90 percent of the refugee population at the WFP-supported Mantapala Refugee Settlement is vulnerable (54.8 percent highly vulnerable and 34.8 percent vulnerable). The remaining 2.1 percent and 8.4 percent are moderately and least vulnerable, respectively. The findings will enable WFP and UNHCR to provide assistance to the refugees based on their vulnerability while gradually helping them build their resilience through livelihood and self-reliance interventions, in lieu of blanket assistance. In the coming months, WFP and UNHCR, through the targeting hub, plan to develop a prioritization criterion and establish a joint team to develop a roadmap for the implementation of the key recommendations.

Donors

Donors to WFP Zambia in 2021 include European Commission, Germany, Green Climate Fund (GCF), Ireland, Private Donors, Sweden, Switzerland, UNICEF and the United States of America (in alphabetical order).