



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Zambia Country Brief May 2021



## 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**

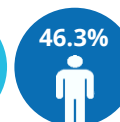
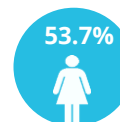
## In Numbers

**8.6 mt** food assistance distributed

**US\$ 135,280** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 292,455** six-month (June – November 2021) net funding requirements

**84,797 people assisted**  
in MAY 2021



## Operational Updates

Following the conclusion of the WFP COVID-19 cash assistance programme in April 2021, WFP continued to monitor cash redemptions among the three percent of the beneficiaries (1,943 households) who were yet to redeem their full entitlements of ZMW 2,400 (USD 109). WFP also engaged a consultant to document lessons learnt from the COVID-19 response to inform similar future interventions. The consultant will document lessons in the six districts and additional districts where UNICEF and three NGOs (ChildFund, Plan International and Zambia Red Cross Society) led similar interventions. Over 312,000 vulnerable urban people impacted by the COVID-19 in six districts (Chilanga, Kafue, Kalulushi, Kitwe, Livingstone and Lusaka) were supported by WFP from July 2020 to April 2021. Each household received a total of ZMW 2,400 (USD 109), translating to ZMW 400 (USD 18) per month for a total of six months.

To enhance the adoption of post-harvest loss (PHL) management practices and technologies among smallholder farmers, WFP facilitated the training of over 60,000 smallholders in PHL management in the month under review. To reach more smallholders and to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading among beneficiaries, WFP, working with cooperating partners, prepared and aired 14 radio programmes on community radio channels with a focus on PHL management practices and technologies.

In line with the Ministry of General Education's (MoGE) decentralized procurement strategy, WFP bought 15 metric tons of cowpeas from about 300 local smallholder farmers in Gwembe and Shang'ombo districts valued at ZMW 105,000 (about USD 4,714). The commodities are expected to benefit over 18,000 schoolchildren in 53 schools benefiting from the Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) programme in the two districts. The smallholder farmers who supplied the cowpeas had received inputs support during the 2020/21 farming season under WFP's early drought recovery intervention. Additionally, WFP continued to support MoGE in strengthening the capacity of the MOGE staff in the school meals programme implementation. During the month under review, WFP facilitated the training of 88 teachers and district staff from 40 schools in four districts (Petake, Nyimba, Sinda and Chama) on the Food Tracking System (FTS). The FTS is a web-based system developed for MoGE to track the movement of commodities from procurement to consumption, ensuring improved commodity accountability in the HGSM programme. So far, WFP has supported MoGE to roll out the FTS in 80 more schools in eight districts, out of the targeted 120 schools in 12 districts.

Photo: WFP Zambia/ Andy Higgins - A smallholder farmer drying groundnuts.

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## 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	292,455

## 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

Working with the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) and other stakeholders, WFP facilitated the finalization of the SUN Business Network (SBN) strategy, that will inform the network's operations across the food system for the next five years (2021 – 2025). The strategy will be validated in June by a wider stakeholders' group involving government departments, private sector, NGOs, and others.

The NFNC and WFP continued to support the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) in the Good Food Logo (GFL) certification process. During the month, WFP supported the review of 18 products submitted by three companies to the ZABS for testing and certification with the logo, a front of pack certification mark for food products that enables consumers to make better food choices. The SBN led by WFP, engaged chain stores (including Shoprite, Jumbo, Choppies, Spar and Cheers) to encourage them to stock GFL certified food products, and food processing companies to have their food products tested and certified.

WFP facilitated the evaluation of the GFL to assess the implementation of the initiative. In May, the contracted consultant finalized the study which focused on assessing the product certification process, stocking of certified products in retail shops, media outreach activities, consumer awareness and lessons learnt. Preliminary results showed that the implementation of the GFL went on well with 45 percent of the small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) under the SBN fully aware of the initiative; the certification process took more than the stipulated average period of 30 days; and slowed economic activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the implementation of the GFL.

In the period under review, WFP facilitated the Training of Trainers (ToTs) for eight provincial staff and 106 district staff from MoA, MCDSS, and the cooperating partners (Care International and iDE) from 12 districts in six provinces (Eastern, Luapula, Lusaka, North-western, Southern and Western) under the second phase of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN II). The trainings aimed to strengthen the staff's capacities in implementing savings for change and post-harvest management activities under SUN II. The trained staff will cascade the same trainings to camp extension staff and targeted beneficiaries including smallholder farmers, producer groups, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls.

## Monitoring

WFP commenced three outcome monitoring exercises in 18 districts to track the outcomes of its interventions among the beneficiaries assisted through the resilience, early drought recovery and integrated nutrition and smallholder support initiatives. The monitoring exercises will be finalised in June. Additionally, WFP commenced a baseline study in 12 districts where it plans to procure 2,000 mt of pulses from smallholder farmers for the Global Commodity Management Facility, an internal mechanism for procuring and pre-positioning food stock. The study is intended to help establish benchmarks for assessing the impact of buying food commodities from smallholder farmers on their livelihoods and food security situation.

## 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).