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

- **7.36 mt** food assistance distributed
- **US$ 134,800** cash-based transfers made
- **US$ 360,000** six-month (July – December 2021) net funding requirements
- **87,849 people assisted** in JUNE 2021

**Operational Updates**

Capacity strengthening has remained a key pillar of WFP’s programming in Zambia under its five-year Country Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024). In June, WFP continued to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) by facilitating the training of 94 MoGE personnel (including teachers and district staff) in the implementation of the Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) programme. The staff from 42 schools in four districts (Gwembe, Luangwa, Shibuyunji and Sinazongwe) were trained on the Food Tracking System (FTS), a web-based platform developed for MoGE to track the movement of commodities from procurement to consumption, which in turn improves commodity accountability in the HGSM programme.

Moreover, WFP has provided 42 tablets to selected schools targeted for FTS rollout to facilitate effective utilization. So far, WFP has supported the rollout of the FTS in eight out of the targeted 13 districts, reaching a total of 80 schools.

As part of its shock responsive social protection programming aimed at supporting the Government and communities, particularly smallholder farmers in disaster preparedness, WFP facilitated the installation of 40 manual rain gauges in four districts (Lundazi, Nyimba, Katete and Petauke) of the Eastern Province, out of the 120 planned to be installed in 12 districts of Southern, Western, Central and Eastern provinces. Through these community-managed early warning systems, trained government extension staff and selected community members will be collecting, interpreting, and disseminating rainfall information to smallholder farmers through their respective producer groups to enhance decision-making in agricultural production and enable them to prepare for eventual climatic shocks.

During the month, WFP also facilitated the training of 60 master trainers in climate services from the targeted provinces, who will in turn cascade the trainings to camp extension staff and rain gauge minders.

In the month under review, WFP distributed 1,000 rippers to smallholder farmers in Gwembe, Kalomo, Monze, Shang’ombo and Sioma districts as part of efforts to address the challenges land preparation hence enhance the adoption and practice of conservation agricultural practices. The rippers will also facilitate early land preparation among the targeted households before the onset of the 2021/22 agriculture season.

Through the Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) system, WFP has continued to conduct market monitoring, particularly prices of key food commodities in four provinces (Copperbelt, Lusaka, Southern and Lusaka). Latest monitoring results showed a decrease (of up to 27%)
Country Strategic Plan (2019–2024)

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<td>Strategic Result 01: Everyone has access to food</td>
<td>Crisis-affected people, including refugees can meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year.</td>
<td>Crisis response</td>
<td>Unconditional cash-based and food transfers.</td>
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<td>Strategic Result 02: No one suffers from malnutrition</td>
<td>Vulnerable people in Zambia have improved nutrition status in line with national targets by 2024.</td>
<td>Root causes</td>
<td>Provide technical support to government institutions and the private sector for the reduction of malnutrition and the scale up of high-impact nutrition interventions.</td>
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<td>Strategic Result 03: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes</td>
<td>Smallholder farmers in Zambia, especially women, have increased access to markets, enhanced resilience to climate shocks and diversified livelihoods by 2030.</td>
<td>Resilience Building</td>
<td>Promote climate-smart agriculture, crop diversification through access to finance, climate services, post-harvest management support and access to markets for smallholder farmers.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Strategic Result 04: Food systems are sustainable</td>
<td>Government institutions in Zambia have more efficient, effective and shock-responsive social protection systems that contribute to the achievement of SDG2.</td>
<td>Root causes</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Result 05: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs</td>
<td>Provide on-demand service provision to the Government, private sector, development partners and United Nations agencies</td>
<td>Crisis response</td>
<td>Provision of logistics and technical advisory support</td>
</tr>
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Strategic Outcome 01: Everyone has access to food

WFP Zambia Country Brief
May 2021

Photo: Schoolchildren in a hydroponic garden at Hauma Primary School, Gwembe District.

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).