



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief July 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**

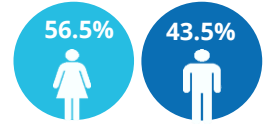
In Numbers

8,828 mt food assistance distributed

US\$ 139,090 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 462,921 six-month (August 2021 – January 2022) net funding requirements

60,655 people assisted
in JULY 2021



Operational Updates

Despite the challenging COVID-19 situation that continued to affect WFP operations in July, leading to suspension of some of the programme activities, WFP assisted 60,655 people including 17,791 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo with food and cash assistance; 12,490 people through nutrition improvement interventions; 15,465 smallholder farmers through smallholder resilience and recovery interventions; and 15,000 people through social protection and capacity-strengthening activities. While providing assistance to the targeted populations, WFP continued to apply the programme criticality priorities established in 2020 to guide continuity in programme implementation, observing preventive measures particularly at community level in the operational areas.

During the period under review, WFP held an official event to launch the Maano Virtual Farmers Market (VFM) mobile application, an e-commerce platform that enables smallholder farmers and buyers to exchange market information and trade surplus commodities. The platform, developed with support from Digital PayGO, a locally contracted financial service provider, provides opportunities for smallholder farmers to discover market prices, have access to market information and sell their produce at premium prices through automated escrow payment systems that are linked to mobile money providers and commercial banks. Smallholder farmers and commodity buyers in Zambia can now download/access the app online or through Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) code through local mobile network providers. By July, over 1,000 smallholder farmers and commodity buyers were using the app in Southern, Eastern, Central and Western provinces of Zambia. WFP assisted 5,101 (2,856 men and 2,245 women) smallholder farmers by introducing the VFM app features.

In July, WFP continued to provide remote technical support to eight districts where the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) with WFP support deployed the Food Tracking System (FTS). The FTS is a web-based platform developed for MoGE to track the movement of commodities from procurement to consumption, ensuring improved commodity accountability in the HGSM programme. WFP supported MoGE to roll out the FTS in 80 schools in eight districts thus far, out of the targeted 120 schools in 12 districts. WFP continued to work with the MoGE to promote the production and consumption of diverse nutritious foods in schools by setting up hydroponics gardens.

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Photo: WFP Zambia/ Andy Higgins - WFP staff interacts with a refugee (Musanje Mwembe) engaging in income generating activity at Mantapala Market, Nchelenge 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	462,921

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

WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to finalize the development of the food processing and preservation manual and training cards for smallholder farmers. The materials were developed as part of efforts to enhance nutrition in the communities by promoting the processing and preservation of locally available nutritious foods, and ensuring the availability of diverse foods beyond the harvest season. The developed materials will be validated virtually in Eastern, Central, Southern and Western provinces in August 2021, and will be disseminated nationwide.

On Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) activities in the 17 operational districts, WFP in collaboration with the Government through MoA and Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, National Food and Nutrition Commission, FAO and UNICEF worked to finalize the district nutrition plans by including activities around women empowerment, post-harvest loss management, food processing and preservation, and the SUN Business Network (SBN) decentralization activities. In the past months, WFP has been facilitating Training of Trainers (ToTs) for provincial and district staff from MoA, MCDSS, and the cooperating partners (Care International and iDE) aimed at strengthening the staff's capacities in implementing financial empowerment for women, food preservation 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 through producer groups, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls.

Monitoring

Results from the outcome monitoring exercise conducted in June at the Mantapala Refugee Settlement in Nchelenge District of Luapula Province revealed that the proportion of refugee households with acceptable food consumption slightly increased to 45.1 percent from 40.4 percent recorded in March 2021. However, the proportion of refugee households with poor consumption score also increased slightly to 23.2 percent from 20.4 percent, suggesting food insecurity threats among the assisted people. Results of the outcome monitoring exercise further revealed that most refugee households (80.6 percent) were spending over 75 percent of their income on food due to limited alternative livelihood options, suggesting high economic vulnerability and the need to support the refugees through both food assistance as well as self-reliance and livelihood support. Under the integrated nutrition and smallholder support initiative, WFP conducted the outcome monitoring exercise in 12 districts in Central, Eastern, Southern and Western provinces in June. Evidence shows that WFP helped to maintain the food security of the assisted population, with the proportion of households having acceptable food consumption score slightly increasing to 89.6 percent compared to 87.8 percent reported at baseline in 2018. Uptake of diets rich in micro and macronutrients also improved and more women consumed diverse diets in the target households. Overall, households in the targeted agricultural camps had better food security outcomes than those in the untargeted camps.

Donors

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