



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Zambia Country Brief August 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**

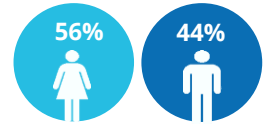
## In Numbers

**5.291 mt** food assistance distributed

**US\$ 162,427** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 564,509** six-month (September 2021 – February 2022) net funding requirements

**111,293 people assisted**  
in AUGUST 2021



## Operational Updates

WFP assisted 111,293 people in August, as part of its integrated package of interventions implemented in Zambia. Among those assisted, WFP reached 17,554 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo with food and cash assistance; 17,408 people through nutrition support interventions; 59,331 smallholder farmers through early recovery and resilience strengthening interventions and 17,000 people through social protection and capacity-strengthening activities.

WFP and partners continued to mobilize the refugees, especially those receiving cash-based transfers (CBT), to form savings groups. This is in line with the recommendations of the WFP-UNHCR Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) undertaken at the refugee settlement that highlighted the need to gradually introduce activities that promote refugees' self-reliance. The groups will facilitate savings, and therefore income generation and investment among the refugees, enabling them to improve their livelihoods and become self-reliant.

Five additional savings groups were formed in August, bringing the total to 50 savings groups established in 2021. Of those groups, 19 have already received training (with 14 trained in August), while the remaining will receive training in the last quarter of the year. Seven groups are already saving, two of which have started making their first savings in August. Under the smallholder support component of the CSP, farmers are saving and reinvesting their savings to expand agricultural activities. As of August, 167 smallholders (87 percent women) in seven savings groups in Namwala and Siavonga districts shared ZMW 175,707 (approximately USD 17,600) at the end of the saving cycle.

WFP continued its efforts to enhance people's nutrition by promoting the processing and preservation of locally available nutritious foods and ensuring the availability of diverse foods beyond the harvest season. As part of these efforts, WFP finalized and virtually pre-tested a processing and preservation manual and training cards developed for the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). Those were tested with provincial and district staff in Central, Eastern, Southern and Western provinces in order to collect feedback and enhance the material before dissemination at national level.

As part of WFP's technical support for the implementation of the national Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) programme, WFP continued to work with the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) on the rollout of the decentralized procurement strategy for the programme. WFP facilitated the

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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	52.99 m	564,509

### 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

training of 88 government staff from five ministries (Education, Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, Community Development and Social Services, and Health) in 11 districts, with a focus on strengthening staff capacity on food procurement and safety. WFP also supported MoGE to integrate grain bags system into nine hydroponics gardens in nine schools in Gwembe district; this will enable schools to implement mixed production of horticultural crops to promote diversified school meals, while ensuring sustainability. In total, 12 gardens have been set up in the district, with nearly 1,300 children expected to benefit from them. Additionally, WFP completed the setting up of a model hydroponic garden at Woodlands B Primary School in Lusaka district. The model garden is a Centre of Excellence where skills on the technology can be learned and replicated in other schools and communities.

As the next farming season approaches, WFP is supporting smallholder farmers with agricultural equipment to prepare them for crop production. In August, WFP distributed 7,354 rippers to 52,201 smallholders organized in 4,509 farmers' groups in five districts (Gwembe, Sioma, Shang'ombo, Kalomo and Monze), as part of early recovery and resilience interventions to help farmers recover from the 2018/19 droughts. WFP also distributed 82,896 hermetic bags to 41,448 smallholders to enable them to properly store their harvests and avoid losses. The support was done through commodity vouchers, facilitated by ten WFP-contracted agro-dealers.

Access to sustainable markets is a key driver for increasing smallholders' resilience, which WFP supports by leveraging partnerships with the Government and the private sector. In August, WFP trained 104 people including aggregators, MoA's camp extension officers and district staff in commodity marketing, aggregation and the use of the Maano Virtual Farmers Market, an e-commerce digital platform that enables farmers and buyers to exchange market information and trade surplus commodities. By the end of August, commodities worth over ZMW 1.3 million (approximately USD 84,600) were traded through the WFP-supported aggregation network. WFP also trained ten aggregators on the Warehouse Receipt System to enhance smallholders' access to finance and commodity markets using warehouse receipts value as collateral. The aggregators learned how to qualify for certification as electronic warehouse receipts agents and become commodity brokers to facilitate the smallholders' access to premium commodity markets.

### Monitoring

Results of the outcome monitoring exercise conducted in June revealed improved food security among people assisted under early recovery interventions implemented in five districts. The proportion of households that frequently consumed diverse diets improved by over 47 percentage points, from 16.9 percent to 64 percent between October 2020 (baseline) and June 2021. Uptake of foods rich in micro and macronutrients also improved. However, economic vulnerability appeared to have worsened, with 61 percent of households spending over 65 percent of their incomes on food compared to 28.4 percent in 2020, attributable to spikes in food prices since October last year.

### 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).