



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Zambia Country Brief October 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 live below the poverty line. The deteriorating economy, coupled with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, threatens 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**

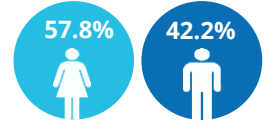
## In Numbers

**5.415 mt** food assistance distributed

**US\$ 188,554** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 873,422** six-month (November 2021 – April 2022) net funding requirements

**132,095 people assisted**  
in October 2021



## Operational Updates

In October, WFP assisted 132,095 people through its integrated package of programmes. Out of the assisted, 17,729 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) received cash and in-kind food assistance; 23,344 people through nutrition support interventions; 73,592 smallholder farmers through early recovery and resilience strengthening activities; and 17,430 people reached through capacity strengthening and social protection interventions.

The WFP-supported Virtual Farmers Market (VFM) mobile application was in October recognised by the Bank of Zambia for its role in fostering financial inclusion among smallholders in rural areas. This e-commerce platform, which enables smallholder farmers and buyers to exchange market information and trade surplus commodities, was awarded the Governor's Award by the central bank for its potential to be scaled up and role in bridging the financial literacy gap among rural communities. Meanwhile, WFP has continued to enhance the VFM, integrating an insurance module into the application to facilitate smallholder farmers' access to insurance products. A meeting was held with provincial agriculture coordinators from the 10 provinces to introduce the new VFM feature and draw a plan for creating awareness and registering smallholders to access insurance products via the application.

WFP has continued to explore ways of integrating nutrition, gender and HIV in its financial inclusion interventions. As part of this, WFP facilitated the training of trainers' workshop for 58 district and provincial staff (53 percent women) from the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, private sector and project staff from Western and Southern provinces to build their capacities in

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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	53.75 m	0.87 m

**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

mainstreaming nutrition, gender and HIV aspects in the savings groups. The workshops were held in Chipata, Kabwe and Livingstone. The trained staff would in turn train animators and community development facilitators.

As part of continued efforts to strengthen the capacity of the Government and enable it to fully own and implement the Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) programme, WFP facilitated four trainings on decentralized procurement, targeting 11 districts with over 90 district and provincial staff trained. Participants were from ministries of education, agriculture, commerce and trade, health, as well as community development and social services from 11 districts in four provinces (Central, Eastern, Southern and Western). Decentralised procurement is a critical element of the HGSM strategy, which was developed with WFP support to transform school feeding into a nationally owned programme while linking schools to local smallholder farmers and providing a market for their produce.

To ensure the social protection systems are enhanced, WFP is working with UNICEF under the United Nations Joint Programme on Social Protection to strengthen community managed early warning systems in selected districts. In October, 40 rain gauges were installed in Kaoma, Mongu and Sioma districts of Western Province and Chikankata, Kalomo, and Monze districts of Southern Province and 93 rain gauge minders were trained. Through the rain gauges, community members will be collecting, analysing and disseminating climate information to help smallholder farmers to make better decisions on when to prepare land and to plant crops, thereby contributing to their resilience against climatic shocks. As the 2021/22 agricultural season approaches, WFP through the trained rain gauge minders has disseminated climate information to about 40,000 smallholder farmers.

WFP has partnered with Good Nature Agro to promote the production of nutrient dense crops and has since facilitated the establishment of an out-grower scheme targeting smallholder farmers who produce groundnuts and beans in Chibombo, Katete, Lundazi and Petauke districts. So far, 432 smallholder farmers have been enrolled on the scheme. Good Nature Agro is providing the legume seed and has guaranteed to buy the harvested crop from the smallholders at prevailing market prices during the 2022/23 marketing season.

**Donors**

China, European Commission, Germany, Green Climate Fund (GCF), Ireland, Private Donors, Sweden, Switzerland, UNICEF and the United States of America