



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief November 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**

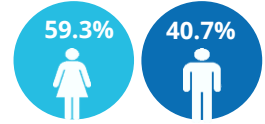
In Numbers

7.055 mt food assistance distributed

US\$ 183,374 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 2.1 million six-month (December 2021 – May 2022) net funding requirements

111,251 people assisted in November 2021



Operational Updates

In November, WFP assisted 111,251 people including 17,291 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo with food and cash assistance; 11,932 people through nutrition improvement interventions; 53,869 smallholder farmers through smallholder resilience and recovery interventions; and 28,159 people through social protection and capacity-strengthening activities.

WFP has continued to explore innovative digital payment solutions to enhance cash transfers and foster financial inclusion of the refugees at the Mantapala Refugee Settlement in Nchelenge District. As part of this, WFP, working with MTN Zambia, Citibank and the Zambia Electronic Clearing House started piloting a digital payment solution, PlugPay. This payment platform allows WFP to transfer cash directly to the refugees' accounts or mobile wallets of choice while using the National Financial Switch, Zambia's interoperable payment gateway. Besides allowing beneficiaries the freedom of choice in the service providers where to receive WFP's cash transfers, PlugPay would streamline cash assistance programming by allowing WFP to access multiple mobile companies without the need to sign contracts with each one of them. Overall, the initiative proved successful, and WFP is rolling out implementation to cover all eligible refugees on cash-based transfers.

WFP continued to support smallholder farmers in Kalomo, Monze, Sioma, Shang'ombo and Gwembe districts to help them recover from the effects of the droughts experienced during the 2018/2019 farming season and to strengthen their resilience against similar shocks in the future. In November, 25,730 smallholder farmers (49 percent women) received 358 metric tons (mt) of nutrient-dense and/or drought tolerant varieties of crop inputs including cowpeas, groundnuts, sorghum, orange maize and 1.1 million cuttings of cassava. The assistance was provided through commodity vouchers, which the smallholders used to redeem inputs from 10 agro-dealers WFP contracted to supply and distribute inputs.

As part of capacity strengthening support to the Government in rolling out the decentralized procurement strategy of the Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) programme, WFP supported the Ministry of Education to procure 1,176 mt of

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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	53.78 m	2.1 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

maize from local smallholder farmers. The food commodities were distributed in 990 schools, expected to benefit over 370,000 school children for a full school term. The local procurement of food commodities provided a market for local smallholders, leading to improved household incomes while contributing positively towards the local economy.

Working with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and other partners, WFP rolled out trainings to 200 community health volunteers (CHVs) (68 percent women) in Mumbwa and Mongu districts to build their capacities in nutrition promotion. Once trained, the CHVs will be conducting nutrition sensitization activities in the local communities to promote good nutrition practices among children aged below 5 years as well as pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescents. This followed the training of 16 rural health facility staff from the two districts in nutrition promotion, which was facilitated by WFP and MoH. The trainings are part of the Healthy Diets Campaign, a nationwide health and nutrition promotion campaign implemented by MoH, National Food and Nutrition Commission and other partners with WFP support.

WFP continued to promote nutrition education in schools to facilitate the adoption of good nutrition practices. In November, WFP supported the Ministry of Education in training 54 teachers from 27 schools in nutrition education in two districts (Kaoma and Mumbwa). The teachers were also trained in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The trained teachers will be educating school children in good nutrition and WASH practices. Additionally, WFP facilitated the training of 45 School Health and Nutrition (SHN) coordinators from 45 schools in vegetable production in Chisamba, Chibombo and Kapiri Mposhi districts of Central Province. This was part of efforts to promote nutrition education and vegetable production in schools. Of the targeted schools, 28 were also provided with avocado and orange fruit trees for planting.

Monitoring

WFP continued to use its Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) system to conduct market monitoring in four provinces (Copperbelt, Luapula, Lusaka and Southern), focusing on prices of key food commodities including maize, beans, salt, cooking oil, fish, sugar, among others. The November mVAM findings indicate mixed trends in the prices of various food commodities. For example, the price of breakfast maize meal reduced by one percent, while that of roller meal increased by 4 percent and that of maize grain remained unchanged between September and November 2021. Additionally, while the price of chicken dropped slightly by 2 percent, the price of kapenta (sardine fish) increased by 6 percent and by one percent for fish. Furthermore, prices of beans dropped by 2 percent, while that of groundnuts increased by 5 percent. Except for the price of sugar, which increased by 2 percent, the prices of other monitored essential commodities including salt and cooking oil reduced. Similar trends were observed across the monitored districts.

Donors

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