Operational Context

Zambia achieved lower middle-income status in 2011 following years of impressive economic performance. Yet, more than half of its 17.8 million people live below the poverty line. The deteriorating economy, coupled with the coronavirus (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.

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 implements integrated nutrition and smallholder farmer support interventions 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.

Operational Updates

WFP assisted 104,945 people including 17,616 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo with food and cash assistance; 34,701 individuals through nutrition improvement interventions; 40,941 people through smallholder resilience and recovery interventions; and 11,687 people through social protection interventions.

Following the piloting of PlugPay in November and December last year targeting 1,000 refugees, WFP, working with MTN Zambia, Citibank and the Zambia Electronic Clearing House, scaled up payments through this digital payment solution, with over 11,200 refugees paid through it in February. The payment platform allows WFP to transfer cash directly to the refugees’ accounts or mobile wallets of choice. Besides expanding the beneficiaries’ options for receiving cash transfers, PlugPay would streamline cash assistance programming by allowing WFP to access multiple mobile service companies without the need to sign contracts with each one of them.

Through its Global Commodity Management Facility, an internal mechanism for procuring and pre-positioning food stocks for humanitarian assistance, WFP exported 207 metric tons (mt) of beans to Madagascar as part of relief efforts. Additionally, WFP exported 46 mt of cow peas to Angola through the same facility, bringing the total to 253 mt exported during the month. WFP procured the commodities from smallholder farmers, improving their incomes and livelihoods.

As part of its continued support in enhancing market access among smallholder farmers, WFP facilitated matchmaking meetings in Livingstone, Chipata and Kabwe districts involving a total of 83 commodity aggregators, 39 government officials, nine big commodity buyers (off-takers), four banks and other private sector members. The meetings facilitated linkages among the stakeholders to foster information sharing for enhanced market access and increased access to trade financing to achieve financial inclusion and improve smallholders’ incomes.

WFP has continued to promote integrated life-changing interventions in Zambia, supporting national efforts to achieve the sustainable development agenda and the national Vision 2030. Working with the Government through the ministries of agriculture and community development and social services, WFP facilitated the training of trainers for...
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019–2024)

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<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>142 m</td>
<td>54.4 m</td>
<td>2.8 m</td>
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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

219 district staff (47 percent women) on food processing and preservation (including solar food dryer technologies), gender and HIV mainstreaming and entrepreneurship. The trained staff from 11 districts in Central, Eastern, Luapula, Muchinga, Northwestern and Southern provinces will in turn cascade the trainings in their respective districts where WFP is implementing the second phase of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN II) programme. WFP also provided four solar food dryers to selected communities in Chinsali, Lundazi, Mazabuka and Mwinilunga districts to enhance food processing and preservation.

With increasing climate variability characterised by prolonged dry spells and flash floods, WFP has continued to collaborate with the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD) in ensuring that communities access weather information through the community-managed early warning systems installed with WFP support. During the month, ZMD sampled 15 rain gauges in Katete, Lundazi, Nyimba and Petauke districts to monitor general maintenance, rainfall data recording, and the utilisation of the collected rainfall information among smallholder farmers. The sampled stations were established to be in good physical condition, with good data collection, analysis and dissemination practices.

WFP continued supporting the Government in integrating nutrition aspects in the national social protection interventions. In collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), WFP facilitated a national training of trainers for 16 government staff on the newly designed nutrition sub-module of the Zambia Integrated Social Protection Information System (ZISPIS), an end-to-end system of the national Social Cash Transfer (SCT) programme. The trained staff will in turn train provincial and district staff on the utilisation of the ZISPIS' nutrition sub-module as part of nutrition mainstreaming in the SCT programme. WFP also continued to strengthen the capacity of the Government in implementing the Home-Grown School Meals Programme, with 23 government staff trained on the decentralized procurement of commodities for school feeding. The training, held virtually, was attended by procurement staff from the ministries of education, agriculture, health and community development from across 23 districts.

Monitoring

The market monitoring exercise conducted by WFP across markets in eight districts revealed an upward trend in the food commodity prices between January and February, although increases were not as high compared to the previous reporting period. For instance, maize grain prices increased by an average of 7 percent compared to an average of 18 percent the previous month, while prices of roller and breakfast maize meal increased by 3 percent and 4 percent, respectively, compared to 8 percent in January. While prices of bread and chicken remained the same, other commodity prices (such as beans, rice, cooking oil, sugar, fish and beef) increased by an average of between 1 and 2 percent. However, the price of groundnuts, an excellent source of many minerals and vitamins, increased sharply by an average of 13 percent, compared to the 1 percent increase between December and January. The increases in commodity prices continue to threaten food and nutrition security, especially among the most vulnerable populations.

Donors

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

Photo: A smallholder farmer inspecting his sorghum field in Gwembe District © WFP/Catherine Zulu