



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief March 2022



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.



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

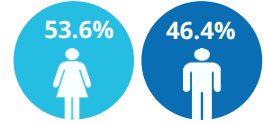
2.163 mt food assistance distributed

US\$ 182,387 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 1.59 million six-month (April – September 2022) net funding requirements

133,053 people assisted

In March 2022



Operational Updates

WFP published its [2021 Annual Country Report \(ACR\)](#) on 31 March. The ACR showcases WFP's performance and the results of its interventions contributing towards Zambia's zero hunger agenda. Although the challenging operational context persisted throughout 2021, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP assisted 572,239 people through cash and food transfers, smallholder support, nutrition improvement, capacity strengthening, and social protection interventions. More details can be found in the [report](#) online.

In March, WFP continued to implement an integrated package of humanitarian and development interventions in Zambia, reaching 133,053 people. Among the assisted, WFP reached 17,396 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with food and cash assistance; 60,205 people through nutrition support interventions; 24,669 smallholder farmers through early recovery from drought and resilience interventions; and 30,783 people through social protection activities.

As part of efforts in addressing malnutrition through a multisectoral approach, WFP, through the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC), supported the district nutrition coordination committees in developing multisectoral nutrition plans for Chisamba, Mazabuka and Nyimba districts. The plans align the stakeholders' nutrition activities at district level to enable district committees to effectively implement the 1,000 Most Critical Days Programme.

WFP continued to promote food preservation and processing, critical to minimizing food losses and prolonging food availability for consumption long after the harvest season. Working with the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP facilitated a training of trainers on the solar food dryer technology for 94 provincial and district government staff. The training aimed to strengthen the capacities of staff in promoting the use of the solar food dryers in 23 districts where WFP implements nutrition interventions including the second phase of the Scaling Up Nutrition programme (SUN II); with a total of 313 staff trained in the first quarter of 2022. Additionally, WFP distributed 12 solar food dryers to selected communities in six districts (Katete, Mazabuka, Mongu, Mumbwa, Monze and Petauke).

In collaboration with the NFNC, WFP trained 21 members of the Pastors' Fellowship in Monze to build their capacities in disseminating nutrition messages. The trained religious

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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 m	56.09 m	1.59 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

leaders will be raising awareness on healthy diets and promoting the consumption of nutritious foods among communities. This is part of the Healthy Diets Campaign, a nationwide health and nutrition promotion campaign implemented by the Government with WFP support to help consumers make better food choices and stimulate demand for nutritious food.

Following the integration of the insurance module on the Maano-Virtual Farmers Market, an e-commerce platform for trading surplus commodities among smallholder farmers to buyers, WFP rolled out a training of trainers for 103 district staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. The training focused on building awareness on the various insurance products, including the livestock and weather-based insurance products for smallholder farmers. The trained staff will, in turn, raise awareness among smallholder farmers on available insurance options on the digital platform. With the marketing season approaching, WFP also trained the staff on commodity aggregation services and processes for recruiting aggregators who will be buying commodities from the smallholder farmers through the WFP-supported aggregation network using the Maano app.

Working with the ministries of agriculture and community development and social services, WFP facilitated a training of trainers on savings-for-change and market systems approaches for 118 staff from the two ministries and cooperating partners from six districts (Gwembe, Kalomo, Kazungula, Monze, Shangombo and Sioma). The training, held in Livingstone, focused on strengthening the capacities of the staff in integrating savings and market access components in the farmer organizations under the WFP-supported early recovery from drought and resilience interventions. The trained staff will cascade the trainings to animators and aggregators who will in turn support the formation of savings groups and the implementation of market access activities, strengthening smallholder farmers' livelihoods. The integration of savings and market access activities will enhance financial inclusion and contribute to cohesion, functionality and sustainability of the smallholder farmer groups in the six districts.

With poor nutrition having far-reaching effects on schoolchildren's health and education outcomes, WFP continued to collaborate with the Government to seek and promote innovative ways of diversifying diets through school meals and to contribute towards schoolchildren's improved nutrition. In March, WFP finalised the setting up of 12 hydroponic gardens in Shang'ombo district to promote nutrition education and complement school meals. To enhance management of the gardens, WFP trained 120 Shang'ombo district staff from the Ministries of Agriculture and Education as well as selected community members and schoolchildren. In addition, WFP and the Ministry of Education conducted oversight missions to four districts (Chiengi, Kawambwa, Kaputa and Milenge) to monitor the implementation of the decentralised procurement strategy of the national Home-Grown School Meals programme. Designed in 2020 with WFP support, the strategy aims to ensure school children receive meals prepared with locally supplied products, in support of local markets through purchases of food from local smallholder farmers and for a more cost-effective implementation of the government programme.

Photo: A smallholder farming couple weeding their legume crop field in Nyimba District © WFP/Catherine Zulu

Donors

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