WFP Zambia
Country Brief
July 2022

Operational Context
In 2022, the World Bank reclassified Zambia as a low-income country after a decade in the lower middle-income category. The reclassification followed sustained poor economic performance exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. More than half of the country’s 17.8 million people live below the poverty line. The country continues to grapple with a high debt burden, posing a significant threat to the government’s efforts to deliver social services, alleviate poverty, and achieve zero hunger.

In the last decade, Zambia 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, 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
In July, WFP assisted 107,037 beneficiaries through its package of interventions. The assisted populations included 18,298 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) reached through cash and food assistance; 44,761 beneficiaries under nutrition support interventions; 31,471 smallholder farmers through resilience interventions; and 12,507 people through social protection activities.

Nutrition promotion
In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the National Food and Nutrition Commission and the media, WFP continued to promote good nutrition practices through the Healthy Diets Campaign, reaching 5,757 school children (53.2 percent girls) in 17 schools in Mazabuka and Mumbwa districts through school-based engagements. The Healthy Diets Campaign is a nationwide health and nutrition promotion programme designed to help consumers make better food choices and stimulate demand for nutritious food.

WFP continued to promote availability of nutritious foods at household level by strengthening the capacities of smallholder farmers, mostly women, in post-harvest management and food processing and preservation. During the month, WFP concluded the training of 822 beneficiaries (82 percent women) in post-harvest management and food processing and preservation in Chinsali District. The trainings are enabling families to adopt good crop management, storage and preservation practices, allowing them to have increased access to safe and quality food for consumption and a marketable surplus for sale to earn an income.

As part of ongoing efforts to decentralise the implementation of nutrition improvement interventions, WFP and partners facilitated the formation of three ward nutrition coordinating committees (WNCCs) in Mazabuka. This was in addition to the 11 WNCCs created in the district previously. The WNCCs will be overseeing the implementation of nutrition promotion activities at ward level under the SUN II programme.

Smallholder support
Market systems approach continues to gain interest as a viable mechanism for enhancing smallholder farmers’ access to predictable markets to improve their incomes. During the month, WFP, at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture,
Country Strategic Plan (2019–2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>142 m</td>
<td>57.45 m</td>
<td>1.4 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

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**Photo:** Beatrice Mwanza, a WFP beneficiary in Petapue District, cooking nshima (pap) using nutritious orange maize meal. ©WFP/Sophie Smeulders

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**WFP Country Strategy**

**Social protection**

WFP continued to provide technical support to the Ministry of Education to strengthen the capacity of district education offices in the local procurement of food for school feeding under the national Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) programme. In July, WFP supported the orientation of 30 procurement staff from 15 districts on the procurement guidelines and procedures to ensure a harmonized procurement process that enables timely delivery of commodities to schools. In addition, WFP concluded the mapping of local aggregators/farmer cooperatives to be linked to the HGSM programme to supply food commodities; this followed the disbursement of a sum equivalent to USD 1 million to the districts by the Government to buy food commodities for the first and second school terms of 2022.

Following the successful installation of 71 hydroponics gardens in 70 schools across 16 districts with WFP support, the Ministry of Education is exploring opportunities to expand school gardening to enhance horticultural production and diversify school diets. As part of these expansion plans, WFP and the Ministry finalized an implementation plan to establish more school gardens using low-cost locally available technologies. For a start, the low-cost school gardens will be piloted in three schools across three districts before gradually scaling up based on the lessons learnt and best practices. Besides enhancing vegetable production, the gardens will enable schools to transfer agricultural skills to school children.

**Monitoring**

WFP concluded the outcome monitoring data collection exercise to assess the food security of the refugees and asylum seekers at the WFP-supported Mantapala Refugee Settlement in Nchelenge District, Luapula Province. Data analysis and reporting is ongoing, with results expected within August. This was the first monitoring exercise conducted in the settlement following the introduction of ration cuts, and the results will help WFP and partners to fully understand the impact of the reduced rations on the beneficiaries’ food and nutrition security. In addition, WFP finalized data collection for the evaluation of its five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP), with data analysis currently ongoing. The evaluation will highlight key WFP achievements since 2019 and generate evidence that would help inform WFP’s next CSP (2023 - 2028).

**Donors:** Green Climate Fund (GCF), Private Donors, Sweden, Switzerland, UNICEF, and the United States of America.