



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief August 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.



Population: **18.4 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **154 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Low**

Stunting: **35% of children aged 6–59 months**

In Numbers

8.4 mt food assistance distributed

US\$ 112,807.55 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 1 million six-month (September 2022 – February 2023) net funding requirements

114,563 people assisted

In August 2022



Operational Updates

WFP reached 114,563 people in August through its integrated package of humanitarian and development interventions in Zambia. Among the assisted, WFP reached 16,013 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with food and cash assistance; 27,883 people through nutrition support interventions; 52,051 smallholder farmers through resilience strengthening interventions; and 18,616 people through social protection activities.

Nutrition promotion: WFP, working with other UN agencies, supported the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services to launch the Nutrition Sensitive Social Protection guidelines along with the Single Window Initiative guidelines and the Social Protection Communications and Advocacy strategy. Developed with WFP support, the nutrition guidelines will enable the Government to integrate nutrition components to its social protection programmes aimed at promoting good nutrition practices among beneficiaries.

WFP and the National Food and Nutrition Commission continued to implement the Healthy Diets Campaign in schools aimed at promoting good nutrition practices, with nearly 1,000 school children reached with nutrition messages across 17 schools in Mazabuka.

As part of exploring innovative ways of improving food and nutrition security in the communities, WFP has been promoting solar food dryers to enhance food processing and preservation. To ascertain demand for the solar dryers, WFP conducted an assessment among farmer groups in four agricultural camps in Monze District, with 23 groups expressing interest to purchase 33 dryers from local artisans.

Smallholder support: WFP officially closed out the Early Recovery of Drought Affected Households Project (ERDP) on 25 August at an event held in Kalomo District (Southern Zambia) and attended by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Mtolo Phiri, and the German Ambassador to Zambia, Her Excellency Anne Wagner-Mitchel, cooperating partners, traditional leaders and smallholder farmers. The project, which assisted nearly 110,000 smallholder farming households to recover from crop losses caused by the droughts experienced during the 2018/2019 farming season, was implemented for two years (June 2020 to July 2022). At the close-out ceremony, WFP handed over 15 motorbikes (bringing the total handed over to 75) to the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen government's extension services 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 m | 59.23 m | 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

Southern Province. Speaking at the event, the Minister commended WFP for its continued support to the smallholder farmers and for the donation of the motorbikes that would facilitate mobility of government extension staff to provide extension services to the farmers.

WFP continued to support smallholder farmers to access predictable markets for their produce. Since the start of the agricultural marketing season in May 2022, over 13,400 smallholder farmers (33 percent youths) sold 7,337 mt of various crops worth ZMW 34 million (about USD 2.1 million) via the WFP-supported aggregation network in 23 districts across Central, Eastern, Lusaka, Southern and Western provinces.

Social protection: Following the successful transition of the WFP-managed school feeding programme to a nationally owned Home-Grown Schools Meals (HGSM) programme in Zambia, WFP, through its Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) and the School Based Programmes Unit in Italy, commenced activities to document the transition process. The documentation will focus on highlighting key experiences, innovations, best practices, and lessons learnt to inform similar exercises in other countries where WFP supports governments to implement school feeding. WFP plans to engage a consultant to document the transition process, with terms of reference already developed. As part of continued efforts to support regional humanitarian efforts, WFP obtained clearance from the Ministry of Agriculture to export 50,000 mt of food commodities from Zambia. In August alone, WFP purchased 35,000 mt of maize grain valued at over USD 10 million from private traders and the national Food Reserve Agency, for export to Zimbabwe, Uganda and other countries in eastern and southern Africa to support relief efforts.

Monitoring

Results from the outcome monitoring exercise conducted in June at the Mantapala Refugee Settlement in Nchelenge District of Luapula Province revealed that the proportion of refugee households with acceptable food consumption significantly reduced from 70.4 percent in December 2021 to 21.6 percent in June 2022. Correspondingly, the proportion of refugee households with poor consumption score increased to 37.1 percent from 3.4 percent between the two reporting periods. This evidence suggests a significant deterioration of the food security of the assisted people, attributed to reduced rations (of both cash and food) by WFP since April 2022 due to funding gaps, and reduced availability of seasonal foods like mushrooms, wild vegetables and edible insects.

Challenges

While WFP has transitioned the majority of the refugees to cash transfers at the Mantapala Settlement, 600 refugees and asylum seekers have remained on in-kind food assistance. However, WFP is facing challenges to locally procure mealie meal and corn soy blend as suppliers are failing to meet WFP's minimum food safety and quality requirements such as fortification with micronutrients like vitamin A. WFP will engage the suppliers in September to re-orientate them on the requirements as part of ensuring that locally sourced food for the refugee response is safe and of required quality.

Photo: A school child from Gwembe Primary School demonstrating how vegetables are grown in hydroponics gardens. ©WFP/Arnold Chasaya