



World Food Programme

SAVING  
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LIVES

# WFP Zambia Country Brief September 2022



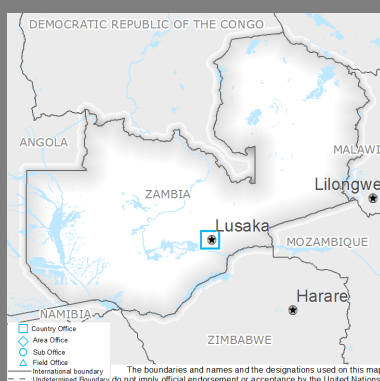
## Operational Context

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 18.4 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**

2022 Human Development Index: **154 out of 191 countries**

Income Level: **Low**

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

## In Numbers

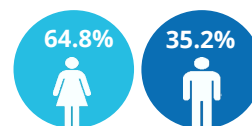
**7.9 mt** in-kind food assistance distributed

**US\$ 98,919** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 1.8 million** six-month (October 2022 – March 2023) net funding requirements

**124,055 people assisted**

In September 2022



## Operational Updates

In September, WFP assisted 124,055 people through its integrated package of programmes. Out of the assisted, 13,514 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) received cash and in-kind food assistance; 67,493 people were supported through nutrition interventions; 31,124 smallholder farmers benefitted from resilience strengthening activities; and 11,924 people were reached through capacity strengthening and social protection interventions.

**Nutrition support:** WFP supported the Ministry of Health to implement the Healthy Diets Campaign in 52 schools across Petuake District, reaching 17,435 school children (56 percent girls) with key messages on good nutrition practices. In addition, WFP facilitated the orientation of 189 community-based volunteers on the Healthy Diets Campaign across 31 health facilities in the district. The trained volunteers will in turn be disseminating nutrition messages to 4,600 pregnant and lactating women in over 200 care groups.

To enhance capacities of health facility staff in promoting good nutrition practices, WFP facilitated refresher trainings of 48 staff (69 percent women) on maternal, adolescent, infant and young child nutrition from 48 rural health facilities in seven districts across Central, Eastern and Western provinces. The trained staff will continue to sensitise communities on good nutrition. Furthermore, WFP and partners reached 122 adolescent girls with nutrition messages in the communities as well as at youth-friendly corners at health facilities across the seven districts as part of the wider social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) activities aimed at promoting good nutrition behaviour. With sport identified as one of the key platforms for mobilizing and reaching the youth with nutrition SBCC messages, WFP distributed 32 netball and footballs to the youth clubs.

WFP has continued to create awareness on good nutrition by facilitating cooking demonstrations in the communities. Through these demonstrations, WFP and partners enhance the capacities of pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls in preparing healthy, nutritious meals for their families using locally available foods. In September 22 cooking demonstrations were held in five districts (Chisamba,

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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	60.25 m	1.8 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

Chibombo, Kapiri Mposhi, Mazabuka and Mumbwa), reaching nearly 450 pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls, and care givers of children under the age of five.

WFP continued to promote backyard gardening, with 120 pregnant and lactating women and 40 adolescent girls in Chisamba and Kapiri Mposhi districts assisted to buy and plant a variety of vegetable seeds including spinach, okra, carrots, and red onions. The trained community-based volunteers are supporting the beneficiaries in managing the gardens. Backyard gardening is enabling families to access nutritious and diverse vegetables to supplement their meals.

**Smallholder support:** Access to predictable markets remains one of the key incentives for sustained and increased agricultural production among smallholder farmers. Hence, WFP has continued to explore innovative ways of supporting the government to enhance market systems for this group of farmers. WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture in training 200 agribusiness and marketing staff on market systems development across 87 districts. The trainings were aimed at strengthening the capacities of the staff in commodity aggregation and the use of the Maano application, an e-commerce platform where smallholder farmers and buyers meet to exchange market information and trade agricultural commodities. With this, WFP has now rolled out the trainings to all the 116 districts of Zambia.

**Social protection:** WFP continued to support processes aimed at integrating nutrition in the government's social protection interventions. WFP facilitated a national training of trainers for 26 social protection and nutrition staff from the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, UNICEF, and WFP on the use of a newly developed nutrition component. Designed and developed with WFP support, the aim is to enhance good nutrition practices among social cash transfer (SCT) beneficiaries and thus was integrated in the information management system for the national SCT programme. The trained staff will in turn train provincial and district staff.

## Monitoring

WFP commenced an outcome monitoring exercise in six districts of Central, Muchinga, and Southern provinces where it is procuring pulses from smallholder farmers for the Global Commodity Management Facility, an internal mechanism for procuring and pre-positioning food stock. The assessment will help WFP to establish the impact of buying commodities from smallholder farmers on their livelihoods and food security. Meanwhile, results of a similar exercise conducted in six districts of Southern Province where WFP implements rural resilience interventions indicate an increase in the proportion of farming households that frequently consumed diverse diets. Households that had an acceptable food consumption score represented 81.5 percent of the surveyed population compared to 71.6 percent at baseline; 15.8 percent had a borderline score compared to 19.6 percent at baseline; and 2.6 percent had a poor score compared to 8.8 percent at baseline. These improvements suggest gains from WFP's contributions towards achieving food security among smallholder farmers.

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

**Photo:** Gladys Tembo, a smallholder farmer in Mumbwa District, in her irrigated tomato field. ©WFP/Nkole Mwape