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.

Operational Updates
WFP continued to implement its integrated package of interventions, assisting 116,812 people in October 2022. A total of 11,158 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) were reached through cash and in-kind food assistance; 76,671 people reached via nutrition support interventions; and 28,983 smallholder farmers through resilience strengthening activities.

Refugee response: With ongoing voluntary repatriations at the WFP-supported Mantapala Refugee Settlement, the refugee population in the settlement reduced significantly, from 18,749* in July 2022 to 9,521 at the end of October. A total of 8,370 refugees had returned to the DRC by end of October 2022, out of the 11,000 who registered for voluntary repatriation following the return intentions survey undertaken by WFP, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with support from the Zambian Government in 2021.

Nutrition improvement: As part of promoting food processing and preservation among rural communities, WFP facilitated the fabrication of 72 solar food dryers in Kaoma and Mumbwa districts using trained local artisans. The fabricated dryers will be distributed to identified beneficiaries in the two districts as part of promoting the use of these low-cost technologies, critical to minimizing food losses and prolonging food availability for consumption long after the harvest season.

WFP continued to support the Ministry of Health and the National Food and Nutrition Commission in implementing the healthy diets campaign, reaching 4,000 pupils and youths (73 percent girls) with key nutrition messages through school and health facility-based activities 52 schools of Katete, Lundazi, Nyimba and Petauke districts, facilitated by trained school health and nutrition coordinators. The nationwide health and nutrition promotion campaign is designed to help consumers make better food choices and stimulate demand for nutritious food. Meanwhile, through the Ministry of Health, WFP facilitated the training of 189 community health volunteers (70.3 percent women) from 13 health facilities in the four districts. In turn, the volunteers reached 1,234 pregnant and lactating women with nutrition messages.

In Numbers
- **7.9 mt** in-kind food assistance distributed
- **US$ 80,383** cash-based transfers made
- **US$ 1 million** six-month (November 2022 – April 2023) net funding requirements
- **116,812 people assisted**
  - In October 2022
  - 59.7% female, 40.3% male

Population: **18.4 million**
Income Level: **Low**
2021 Human Development Index: **154** out of 191 countries
Stunting: **35%** of children aged 6–59 months

*In addition to repatriations, over 800 people were removed from the beneficiary list in August 2022 as they were not available in the settlement for verification of their locations.*
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019–2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Requirement (in USD)</td>
<td>142 m</td>
<td>60.65 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

To promote financial inclusion especially among women, WFP facilitated the formation of 74 savings groups in Monze and Choma districts, with 2,222 community members (91 percent women) trained on financial literacy through the savings for change model. So far, the groups have saved a total of ZMW 541,760 (about USD 34,200), with loan value of ZMW 853,400 (approx. USD 54,000). Nearly 1,000 women accessed loans to invest in small business, buy farming inputs and meet household needs including food.

Smallholder support: With post-harvest losses threatening the already fragile food systems in rural communities, WFP continued to support the Government in addressing crop losses by creating awareness on post-harvest management and promoting the use of hermetic solutions among smallholder farmers. A total of 24,500 hermetic bags were distributed in ten of the 16 districts where WFP implements the second phase of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN II) programme, benefiting 12,250 smallholder farmers. In addition, WFP is facilitating linkages between farmers and the private sector to ensure sustainable supply of hermetic solutions on the market.

Access to markets remains one of the major challenges smallholder farmers continue to face in Zambia. Hence, WFP explores ways of facilitating access to predictable markets, enabling farmers to sell part of their surplus grain and earn an income to meet their household needs, including investing in farming inputs. By October, WFP supported 29,000 smallholder farmers to sell over 11,300 metric tons of food commodities valued at ZMW 52.3 million (about USD 3.2 million) through the WFP-supported network of markets. The commodities were traded from 26 districts across Central, Eastern, Muchinga, Southern and Western provinces.

Social Protection: WFP supported the Ministry of Education to construct the second hydroponics garden at Woodlands B Primary School in Lusaka. Constructed with support from the Diplomatic Club of Zambia, the unit will help the school, which is a centre of excellence for innovative agricultural production techniques in schools, to enhance nutrition education and increase vegetable production for increased income. WFP plans to officially hand over the garden before end of 2022. Since 2019, WFP has constructed a total of 72 hydroponics gardens in 70 schools to promote nutrition education and diversify school meals.

Monitoring

WFP concluded the outcome monitoring exercise in six districts (Chisamba, Choma, Mafinga, Mazabuka, Monze and Pemb) to access the impact of buying food commodities from smallholder farmers for the Global Commodity Management Facility – a WFP mechanism for procuring and pre-positioning food stock – on their livelihood and food security. Preliminary results show that households frequently consumed diverse diets, with 89.6 percent having an acceptable food consumption score compared to 66.9 percent at baseline in 2021. Similarly, the proportion of households with borderline and poor consumption scores reduced, suggesting improvements in the food security of the households where WFP procured the pulses.