



# WFP Zambia Country Brief November 2022

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## 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**

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

Income Level: **Low**

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

## In Numbers

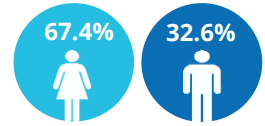
**7.2 mt** in-kind food assistance distributed

**US\$ 65,124** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 362,967** six-month (December 2022 – May 2023) net funding requirements

**93,774 people assisted**

In November 2022



## Operational Updates

WFP assisted 93,774 people through its various interventions. Out of the assisted, 9,369 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) received cash and in-kind food assistance, 72,576 people nutrition support, and 11,829 smallholder farmers undertook resilience strengthening activities.

**Nutrition improvement:** With sport identified as a critical pathway for implementing social and behaviour change communication activities, WFP has continued to use it in reaching adolescent girls and children with nutrition messages. During the month, WFP reached 1,500 adolescent girls with key nutrition messages under the Healthy Diets Campaign, a nationwide nutrition campaign implemented with the Ministry of Health and other partners to promote good nutrition practices. The messages were disseminated just before youths engaged in sporting activities including football, netball and volleyball. In addition, WFP reached over 7,400 children (64 percent girls) in schools and 230 pregnant and breastfeeding women through the campaign.

Working with nutrition partners, WFP continued to promote good nutrition for children below the age of five years as well as pregnant and lactating women and adolescents. A total of 63 cooking demonstrations were conducted in four districts of Chibombo, Chisamba, Kapiri Mposhi and Petauke districts to promote the use of locally available foods, reaching 1,350 pregnant and breastfeeding women, 479 adolescent girls, and 402 men. The involvement of men in the cooking demonstrations is part of WFP's deliberate effort in integrating gender aspects in its programming to achieve gender equality.

As part of strengthening the capacities of rural communities in processing and preserving food, WFP rolled out food processing and preservation trainings in Mongu and Kaoma districts, reaching over 2,400 smallholder farmers (56 percent women). In addition, over 100 community champions received similar trainings and will, in turn, support with implementing food processing and preservation activities in the communities, critical to minimizing food losses and prolonging food availability for consumption long after the harvest season.

**Smallholder support:** In its continued effort to enhance production and productivity among smallholder farmers, WFP facilitated the training of 7,800 farmers out of the targeted 10,400 on improved farming methods in six districts

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(Chikankata, Gwembe, Kalomo, Monze, Namwala and Pemba). As a result, the farmers have so far prepared 8,300 hectares of their land using ripping and basins to plant crops.

Working with the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education and other cooperating partners, WFP started disseminating climate information to smallholder farmers using the trained community members. The information is being collected using rain gauges which were installed by ZMD with WFP support as part of enhancing community early warning systems. As of November 2022, 2,600 smallholder farmers (51.6 percent women) received climate information across the four districts (Katete, Lundazi, Nyimba and Petauke) to help them make better decisions on when and what to plant, thereby contributing to their resilience against climatic shocks.

Financial inclusion activities remain among the major strategies WFP is promoting to improve the incomes and livelihoods of both urban and rural communities. During the month, 86 WFP-supported savings groups shared out a total of ZMW 2 million (about USD 124,207) in five districts (Lundazi, Isoka, Katete, Nyimba and Petauke), with an average share-out of ZMW 23,296 (USD 1,444) per group. The incomes will enable smallholder farmers to invest in agricultural inputs (including seed and herbicides) and to meet other household needs including food.

Meanwhile, WFP and the ministries of Agriculture, and Community Development and Social Services trained 80 government staff in Lusaka on savings for change under the second phase of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN II) programme. The trainings were aimed at strengthening the capacities of staff at provincial, district and field levels in the two ministries on forming and managing savings groups in the urban areas of Lusaka. The training also focused on integrating nutrition and gender activities in the groups. Following the trainings, WFP facilitated the roll out of the same trainings to 300 peri-urban farmer representatives, who would in turn help to form at least three groups each for a total of 900 groups to enable individuals to save and borrow money.

WFP continued to support smallholder farmers to access predictable markets to help them improve their incomes. As part of this, WFP purchased 540 metric tons (mt) of cow peas and 25 mt of mixed beans valued at USD 351,440 under its Global Commodity Management Facility, an internal mechanism for buying and pre-positioning food for regional relief efforts. Out of the procured quantities, 405 mt of cowpeas was transported to Zimbabwe. In addition, since the beginning of the year, WFP has purchased and transported 14,220 mt to Zimbabwe, out of the planned 15,000 mt.

## Monitoring

WFP and the National Food and Nutrition Commission concluded a study aimed at, among others, documenting lessons learned from implementing the Healthy Diets Campaign. The study was undertaken in five districts of Chongwe, Lusaka, Mazabuka, Mongu and Mumbwa. Evidence revealed that over three-quarters of the 800 targeted respondents were aware of the campaign. Most importantly, the study revealed that interpersonal communication activities in schools and communities using community-based volunteers and nutrition champions can enhance the effectiveness of the campaign than social media and radio-based campaigns.

## Country Strategic Plan (2019–2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
142 m	61.65 m	362,967

### 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

**Photo:** Damiano Tembo, a community rain gauge minder of Katete District demonstrating how he collects, analyses and disseminates climate information to smallholder farmers. ©WFP/Nkole Mwape