



World Food Programme

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LIVES

# WFP Zambia Country Brief April 2023



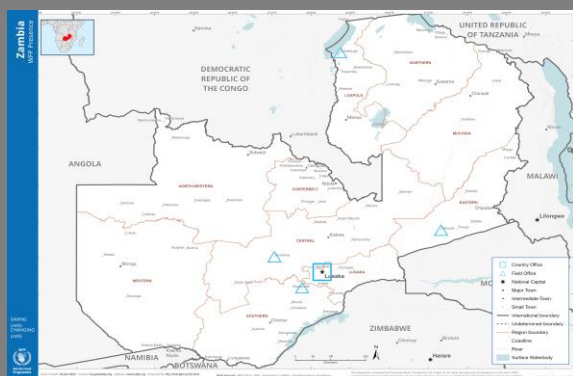
## Operational Context

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) 2019–2023, 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: **19.6 million**

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

Income Level: **Low**

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

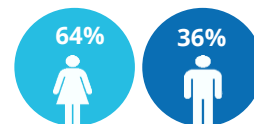
## In Numbers

**US\$ 230,900** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 7.6 million** six-month (May – October 2023) net funding requirements

**49,963 people assisted**

In April 2023



## Operational Updates

In April, WFP assisted 49,963 people including 26,046 individuals through crisis response cash assistance; 14,156 people through nutrition improvement interventions; 9,701 individuals through smallholder support and resilience interventions; and 60 through social protection interventions.

### Crisis Response

WFP continued to provide cash and food assistance to the refugees and asylum seekers at the Mantapala Refugee Settlement. In April, a total of 7,251 people of concern were assisted. Of these, 153 were asylum seekers. Ninety-eight percent of the caseload (i.e., 7,098 refugees) received their assistance through cash-based transfers while the remainder got it as in-kind food.

The country received intense rainfall in January 2023 resulting in nearly 170,000 people (in 33 districts across seven out of the ten provinces) being affected by flooding and needing immediate humanitarian assistance. WFP provided technical support to the Government and direct assistance to victims of floods through cash distributions to complement government rations in Mumbwa, Shibuyunji, Mambwe, Lusangazi and Lumezi districts. In April, a total of 20,600 people in Mazabuka and Mumbwa districts received food in-kind whilst 12,675 people in four districts (Shibuyunji, Mambwe, Lusangazi and Lumezi) received assistance through cash-based transfers.

### Nutrition improvement support

With technical support from the World Food Programme, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services in Northern Province through the Isoka District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC), oriented a total of 29 (17 male and 12 female) community volunteers on nutrition integration in Village Saving and Lending Associations (VSLA). The trained community volunteers have since reached out to 1,298 (187 males and 1,111 females) VSLA members with nutrition integration messages. A total 45 savings groups were oriented in financial literacy, out of 110 saving groups targeted during the first cohort with the rest of the savings groups targeted to be trained in the next cohort.

**Contact info:** Chileshe Chilambwe ([Chileshe.chilambwe@wfp.org](mailto:Chileshe.chilambwe@wfp.org))

**Country Director:** Cissy Byenkya

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/zambia](http://www.wfp.org/countries/zambia)

## Country Strategic Plan (2019–2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
142 m	62.43 m	7.6 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

To promote post-harvest management among smallholder farmers and rural communities under the second phase of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN II) programme, WFP supported the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services in Chinsali District of Muchinga Province to roll out the food preservation, processing and storage trainings targeting lead farmers. A total of 91 lead farmers from six camps were trained by the District Nutrition Coordination Committee. A total of 273 PICS (Purdue Improved Crop Storage) bags were distributed to lead farmers for their use and for use as teaching aids to the follower farmers.

## Smallholder support

To promote financial inclusion and empowerment through rural savings initiatives, WFP supported the training of 140 (45 females and 95 males) government staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Community Development and Social Services in the formation of Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) and Savings for Trade to increase access to credit and trade finance among smallholder farmers and micro-aggregators. The trained staff will support the training of leaders from savings groups to guide the formation of SACCOs that will include business development, entrepreneurship, nutrition integration and gender.

WFP conducted entrepreneurship and business development training for Luapala Bulking Centre in Nyimba district under the Strengthening Climate Resilience of Agricultural Livelihoods in Agro-Ecological Regions I and II (SCRALA) project with 25 members (11 female and 14 males) of the bulking committee trained to kick-start entrepreneurship activities by cooperative members. The training was co-facilitated by financial service providers – the Zambia National Commercial Bank, INDO Zambia Bank and Vision Fund – which shared available agribusiness and trade financing products that the cooperative could access.

## Social protection

To enhance the Government of Zambia's capacity to better plan, prepare, and respond to crop failure triggered by drought incidences because of increasing effects of climate change. The World Food Programme has partnered with the Government and Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) Limited to support an ARC Replica insurance product in the 2023/2024 season. The ARC Replica is an insurance product offered by ARC Limited to the World Food Programme to complement the insurance policy currently being purchased by the Government of Zambia. The ARC Replica policy to be purchased in 2023 will further increase coverage particularly for smallholder farmer households in drought prone districts.

## Donors

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

**Photo:** Florence Munyumbwe, a single mother from Monze district, proudly displays the cash she received through WFP's targeted cash-based transfers, assisting individuals affected by flooding earlier this year. ©WFP/Nkole Mwape