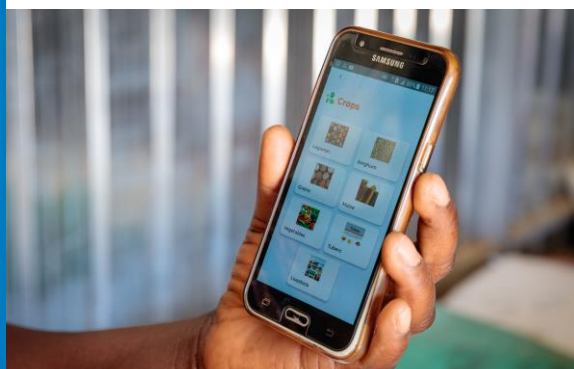




World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief May 2023



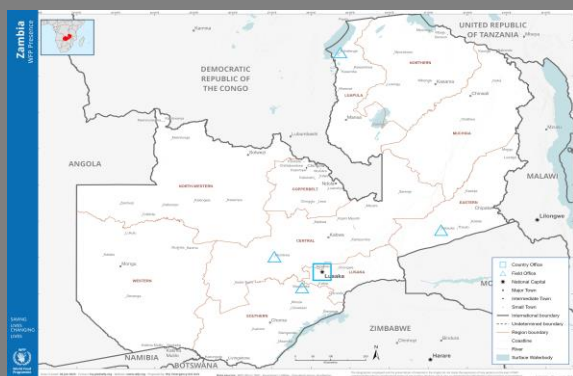
Operational Context

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**

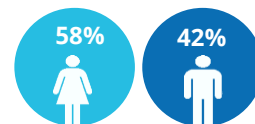
In Numbers

US\$ 343,200 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 6.3 million six-month (June – November 2023) net funding requirements

59,268 people assisted

In May 2023



Operational Updates

In May, WFP assisted 59,268 people including 37,999 individuals through crisis response cash assistance; 14,183 people through nutrition improvement interventions; 18,306 individuals through smallholder support and resilience interventions; and 28 through social protection interventions.

Crisis Response

Refugee Response: WFP continued to provide cash assistance to the refugees and asylum seekers at the Mantapala Refugee Settlement. In May, a total of 7,251 people were assisted. Of these, 153 were asylum seekers. A total of 7,118 beneficiaries from 1,903 households each received cash-based transfers of K170 for their monthly food basket, following a revision from the K130 in April 2023.

Flood Response: All of the three field offices (Mazabuka, Mumbwa and Petauke) implementing the flood response completed the cash-based transfer mop up activities before the end of May 2023. Petauke field office reached all the 2,096 targeted beneficiaries across three districts. Mazabuka field office reached 5,436 beneficiaries in Monze and Mazabuka whilst Mumbwa field office paid 731 households in Mumbwa and 9 households in Shibuyunji, achieving over 86% of the target in both districts. Mumbwa field office also helped 207 beneficiaries access the funds and held stakeholder meetings to close the activity and share feedback. The overall target for the intervention was reduced from 11,145 households to 10,947 households due to a lower kwacha value caused by exchange rate variations. Overall, 11,069 transfers were made for the response, translating to 55,345 people assisted, reaching 99% of the target.

Nutrition improvement support

WFP is preparing the transition of SUNII into a government led implementation. WFP is coordinating with the Chongwe District Nutrition Coordination Committee and International Development Enterprises to initiate the process allowing the government departments to manage the implementation of SUN II for increased ownership and sustainability.

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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 | 6.3 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

WFP in collaboration with the District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC) in Isoka district conducted orientation sessions for 16 participants (11 females, 5 males) and 2 Nutrition Support Group volunteers on integrating nutrition into Village Savings and Lending Associations. The trained volunteers then rolled out to 407 saving group members. During the trainings, the community volunteers were provided with nutrition action cards for use during similar trainings. In addition, the DNCC provided financial literacy education to 17 savings groups in Nkombwa ward and provided linkage to banks/micro finance institutions. A total of 62 out of 110 targeted have since been provided with financial education.

Smallholder support

Maano - Virtual Farmers Market record increase in number of users: The platform recorded a significant increase in the number of smallholder farmers registered on the platform from 19,997 (35% females) at the beginning of the year to 104,407 (55% females) in May across the 116 districts in Zambia. This followed ambitious actions aimed at developing private sector partnerships to unlock opportunities that sustainably provide services to smallholder farmers. With an increasing number of private sector partners on the platform, and with the addition of life insurance and financial service modules, the number of users is anticipated to continue rising.

Inception meeting for alternative livelihoods project:

WFP in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) hosted an inception meeting for the alternative livelihoods project. The meeting was attended by representatives from WHO, WFP, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises Development at provincial, district and local levels. The project will support smallholder farmers that have opted out of growing tobacco to engage in alternative economic activities. Registration of beneficiaries and baseline data collection are ongoing and project implementation will start by the third week of June 2023.

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. WFP 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.