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 19.6 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.

In Numbers

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Operational Updates

The new 2nd Generation Country Strategic Plan (2G CSP-2023-2028) for Zambia was approved by the WFP Executive Board on 29 June. The plan targets five key strategic outcomes that include: crisis response; nutrition improvement support; enhancing smallholder farmer support for resilient food systems; strengthening government capacities and systems on social protection in Zambia and provide on-demand services for partners in the areas of logistics and supply chain.

In June, WFP assisted 22,404 people including 7,492 individuals through crisis response cash assistance, 394 people through nutrition improvement interventions, 14,441 individuals through smallholder support and resilience interventions, and 77 through social protection interventions.

Crisis response

WFP continued to provide cash assistance to the refugees and asylum seekers at the Mantapala Refugee Settlement. In June, the total population of refugees in the settlement stood at 7,917 (3,918 female and 3,999 male). Of these, 452 (217 female and 235 male) were asylum seekers. A total of 7,492 (female 3,619 and male 3,873) beneficiaries from 2,028 households each received cash-based transfers of K170 (US$ 9.7) for their monthly food basket.

Nutrition improvement support

With the approved proposal to provide direct support to the government for the implementation of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN II) programme activities in 9 districts, WFP held engagement meetings with the District Nutrition Coordination Committee and representatives from International Development Enterprises (IDE), the Provincial Nutrition Coordination Committee and the Ward Nutrition Coordination Committees. A total of 9 districts (Solwezi, Mwinilunga, Zambesi, Shangombo, Kalabo, Kaoma, Mongu, Chongwe, and Chiengi) were visited by the teams comprising WFP staff. The teams held successful meetings, where the newly proposed implementation model was explained to the provincial, district, and ward-level teams. During the meetings, it was agreed that materials that were in IDE’s custody should be handed over to the relevant government ministries for their use.

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**WFP Country Strategy**

### Country Strategic Plan (2019–2023)

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<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)</th>
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<td>132m</td>
<td>85m</td>
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* Includes requirements for CSP 2023-2028

**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 effective, efficient, 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 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 Home Grown School Meals 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

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**Smallholder support**

**Commodity aggregation:** A total of 106 metric tons of crops that included white maize, cowpeas, soybeans, groundnuts and sunflowers valued at US$ 18,634 were aggregated by 12 aggregators (2 female and 10 male) from 2,607 farmers (1,368 female and 1,239) in Southern Province. On the other hand, 100 metric tons of cowpeas were aggregated by 6 aggregators for WFPs regional Food Procurement. These are interventions designed by WFP to support smallholder farmers in improving access to diverse and predictable markets.

**WFP Zambia hosted the Regional Gender, HIV and Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) Group** from Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Malawi in Monze district. The participants engaged with smallholder farmers from Mukamba Farmers Club on gender and sexual-based violence and learned lessons on how the groups were mainstreaming gender, HIV, and leaving no one behind in their livelihood activities. Farmers showcased integrated programming including climate services, conservation agriculture, input credit, post-harvest loss (PHL) aggregation, and SheCan financial linkages to Vision Fund. The group was appreciative of how the farmer group prepared nutritious foods for children and the terminally ill.

**Commissioning of Vizimumba Bulking Centre in Nyimba under the SCRALA Project:** WFP supported the official commissioning of the Vizimumba Bulking Centre in Nyimba and handing over of two tricycles to ease transport services among smallholder farmers. The commissioning ceremony was led by Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Agriculture in the company of the Deputy Representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The delegation also monitored Strengthening Climate Resilience of Agricultural Livelihoods in Agro-Ecological Regions I and II (SCRALA) project interventions including post-harvest loss, food processing, savings groups, livelihoods, and market access.

**Social protection**

To support the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) to adequately prepare and undertake the 2023 in-depth vulnerability and needs assessment, WFP facilitated the DMMU review of the data collection tool and the needs assessment manual. A meeting was held in Lusaka, comprising 24 technical staff from relevant government ministries, the UN system, and non-governmental organisations. The meeting reviewed and revised the data collection protocols that will be used to assess the multi-faceted impacts of the shocks faced during the 2022/2023 rainfall season: prolonged dry spells, floods, and pest infestation. The assessment is scheduled for July and August for 75 out of the 116 districts in the country.

**Donors**