



World Food Programme

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# WFP Zambia Country Brief October 2023



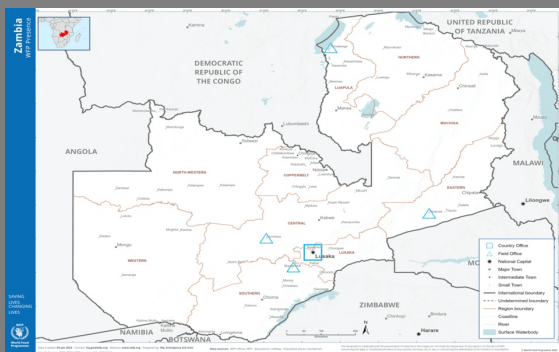
## Operational Context

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 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.

As part of the Zambia Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023 – 2028, WFP provides technical assistance to the Government to strengthen national systems and programmes that aim to achieve zero hunger. This includes integrated nutrition programmes, smallholder farmer support, social protection programmes and disaster risk management, as well as providing food assistance to vulnerable individuals and populations, including refugees, and offering on-demand logistics support during emergencies.

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**

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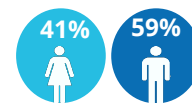
## In Numbers

**US\$ 80,262** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 2.2 million** six-month (November 2023 – April 2024) net funding requirements

**43,481 people assisted**

In October 2023



## Operational Updates

In October, WFP assisted 43,481 people, including 8,556 individuals through crisis response cash assistance, 291 people through nutrition improvement interventions, 34,611 individuals through smallholder support and resilience interventions, and 23 through social protection interventions.

### Crisis response

WFP continued to provide cash assistance to the refugees and asylum seekers at the Mantapala Refugee Settlement. In October, the total population of refugees in the settlement was 8,556 (4,322 female and 4,234 male). Of these, 1,052 (518 female and 534 male) were asylum seekers.

**Strengthened Livelihoods and Building Self-Reliance (SLABS) Project in Mantapala** – WFP through the implementing partner Africa Action Help International (AAH) conducted land identification for the setting up of learning hubs for the project beneficiaries which the smallholder farmers will manage for their crops in all the 19 blocks of the settlement. Furthermore, the installation of a drip irrigation system at Mantapala B and Kampampi primary school in the host community has been completed awaiting the planting of vegetables. The irrigation systems will be community-managed with support from WFP, AAH and the Ministry of Agriculture. Beneficiaries will receive training in installation and maintenance, with technical services provided by AAH and extension services during production from the Ministry of Agriculture.

### Nutrition improvement support

**Sensitization and Orientation Workshop on “Emerging Cooking Solutions” to Government Extension Service Staff:** Fifty-five (55) extension service staff (38 females and 17 males) from the Ministries of Agriculture and Community Development and Social Services were recently trained on the utilization of newly promoted energy-efficient cooking stoves by the Emerging Cooking Solutions team in Lusaka. The workshop was aimed at empowering extension service providers to promote the technology among savings groups, an innovative approach that has already been implemented in Lusaka urban, targeting savings groups. The project aims to provide 300 beneficiaries with low-energy cooking stoves and will provide lessons to expand to other WFP-supported projects.

**Photo:** Kingfred, a smallholder farmer and rain gauge minder under WFP's rural risk resilience initiative, showcases his weather information capture and sharing techniques to a visiting delegation in Pemba District, southern Zambia. @WFP/Nkole Mwape

## Country Strategic Plan (2023–2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
98.5 m	9.9 m	2.2 m

## Strategic Result 1: Access to food (SDG Target 2.1)

**Strategic Outcome 01:** Food-insecure people in Zambia (including refugees) affected by shocks are better able to meet their essential food security and nutrition needs in anticipation of, during and in the aftermath of crises.

**Focus Area:** Crisis response

## Activities:

- Provide food and livelihood support to crisis-affected, food-insecure people, including refugees, to meet their basic food and nutrition needs, and support self-reliance in anticipation of, during and in the early aftermath of shocks including climate change induced impacts

## Strategic Result 2: End malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)

**Strategic Outcome 02:** Populations at risk of malnutrition in Zambia have improved access to and consumption of safe and diverse nutrient-dense food all year round.

**Focus Area:** Root causes

## Activities:

- Promote adoption of optimal nutrition practices among populations at risk of malnutrition and strengthen partnership with food system actors to increase the availability of nutrient-dense foods.

## Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes (SDG Target 2.3)

**Strategic Outcome 03:** Food-insecure and risk-prone smallholder farming populations, especially women, youth and people with disabilities in targeted rural and urban areas, are enabled to withstand climate change and other shocks and benefit from more resilient food systems through increased incomes that contribute to improved nutrition and food diversity and increased economic and livelihood opportunities by 2030.

**Focus Area:** Resilience Building

## Activities:

- Promote knowledge and adoption of climate services, regenerative agriculture practices and innovative technologies among smallholders and nutritious food value chain actors to build resilience with regard to climate change and other shocks while simultaneously reducing environmental degradation.
- Provide targeted smallholders and value chain actors with an integrated package of innovative and transformative skills, tools and systems to enable the adoption of diversified and decent livelihoods

## Strategic Result 4: Capacity Building (SDG Target 17.9)

**Strategic Outcome 04:** National institutions in Zambia have strengthened capacity to design policies and programmes that promote the enhancement of national food systems and deliver national emergency preparedness, anticipatory and response programmes, nutrition-sensitive, shock-responsive social protection, supply chain systems and sustainable food security programmes by 2030.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

## Activities:

- Provide technical assistance, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, to national institutions to strengthen national capacity and systems for emergency preparedness, anticipatory action and early response, social protection, food and nutrition security and sustainable food systems

## Strategic Result 5: Global Partnership (SDG Target 17.16)

**Strategic Outcome 05:** Humanitarian and development actors in Zambia have improved access to on-demand services and benefit from innovative, effective and cost-efficient supply chain capacity by 2030.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

## Activities:

- Provide timely and appropriate on-demand services for supply chain, innovation and health logistics services to relevant actors

**Integrate Nutrition Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) into Savings Discussions:** Through the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN II) programme, three (3) savings groups in Mpika District reported to have integrated nutrition SBCC into savings discussions, with 72 beneficiaries (53 females; 19 males) reached with messages on the importance of nutrition; growing a variety of crops and fruits; gender and nutrition; food processing, preservation, and storage; and water and sanitation. The knowledge gained by the beneficiaries in the savings groups will help enhance nutrition and the availability of food at household level.

## Smallholder support

**WFP Signs a Joint Work Plan with the Zambia National Service (ZNS):** WFP and ZNS signed a Joint Work Plan to establish a common beans outgrower scheme. The scheme will be piloted in selected ZNS camps located in the Northern and North-Western provinces. Under this plan, ZNS will act as the producer and anchor farm, while smallholder farmers around ZNS camps will be contracted to supply WFP with common beans. This will allow WFP to meet its local and regional food procurement requirements, while also guaranteeing a market for the farmers. Additionally, WFP will integrate market system development, savings groups, farmer groups, and the lead farmer approach to mobilize surplus commodities from smallholders, which will then be channelled through ZNS as the primary commodity aggregation point. This collaboration is expected to boost the production of common beans by ZNS, while also supporting smallholder farmers in transforming their livelihoods by increasing their household incomes.

**Training of Savings Groups and Aggregators in Mechanisation Service Provision:** WFP working with the Ministry of Agriculture and in collaboration with agriculture equipment suppliers (CAMCO and SARO) conducted a mechanisation service provision training to provide technical knowledge and business principles to five selected farmer-led service providers to improve their ability to offer affordable mechanisation services to other smallholder farmers. The training covered the operation of agriculture equipment such as tractors, land preparation, planting, crop threshing, and food processing. Thirteen members from savings groups and aggregators in Katete and Monze districts and seven field staff from the Ministries of Agriculture and Community Development participated in the training.

## Capacity Building

To enhance the production and dissemination of weather and climatic information, and to better support decision making in sectors such as aviation and agriculture, the Zambia Meteorological Department is incorporating emerging issues related to weather, climate, and sustainable development. With the support of WFP, the department hosted three stakeholder consultation meetings in different provinces to review the National Meteorology Policy (NMP) of 2013. Each meeting targeted 30 participants from relevant government ministries, departments, NGOs, and civil society organizations.

## Donors

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