



World Food Programme

WFP Zambia Country Brief November 2023

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



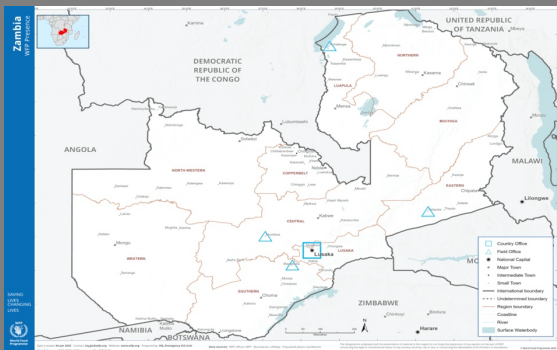
Operational Context

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 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**

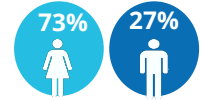
In Numbers

US\$ 72,737 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 2.1 million six-month (December 2023 – May 2024) net funding requirements

24,011 people assisted

In November 2023



Operational Updates

WFP assisted 24,011 people, including 8,556 individuals through crisis response cash assistance, 192 people through nutrition improvement interventions, 15,181 individuals through smallholder support and resilience interventions, and 82 through social protection interventions.

Crisis response

WFP continued to provide cash assistance to the refugees and asylum seekers at the Mantapala Refugee Settlement. In November, 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: In the period under review, WFP through Africa Action Help International (AAH) and the Ministry of Agriculture distributed farming inputs (seeds) to 1,000 refugee farmers and 200 farmers from the host community. The beneficiaries received combinations of inputs where the recipients of maize seed also received beans while the recipients of cassava cuttings also received groundnut seed and all received sachets of vegetable seed. The inputs allocated to each recipient included cassava cuttings, maize, groundnuts, beans, and various vegetables distributed in sachets. 800 farmers received maize and beans while 400 received cassava cuttings and groundnuts. The vegetable seeds distributed included onion, carrots, chinese cabbage, rape and okra. Furthermore, the savings for change continued to make strides on the livelihood project with 23 savings groups currently saving out of the 53 groups formed in the refugee settlement, while 8 savings groups were formed in the host community, with 6 of the groups actively saving.

Nutrition improvement support

SUN II monitoring with Government line Ministries:

WFP supported the Ministry of Community Development and the Ministry of Agriculture in monitoring interventions under the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN II) Programme within the WFP-supported interventions. The activity carried out in selected SUN II funded districts (Kalabo, Kaoma, Mpika, Isoka, Chinsali, Chipata, Lundazi, Choma and Monze) aimed at monitoring the progress made towards meeting the project set targets. Some of the interventions monitored included Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLA)

Photo: Mechanisation equipment distributed to savings groups and aggregators in Katete and Monze districts as part of the WFP and Ministry of Agriculture Zambia Mechanization Service Centre initiative. WFP/Nkole Mwape.

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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	2.1 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

activities, food processing, preservation and storage and solar food dryer utilisation. One of the savings groups in Lundazi district of Eastern province shared out K289,000 (USD 12,642) with the larger share of funds amounting to K18,500 (USD 809) used for household upgrades and food security at the household level. Preliminary observations from the monitoring indicate that Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs) formation is varying among districts with a need to strengthen the capacity of these SACCOs to engage in various economic livelihoods and improve their business skills. Post-harvest loss prevention interventions also require continuous efforts to ensure access to products and services.

Smallholder support

Making markets work for smallholder farmers: Access to predictable and sustainable markets remains a key enabler for unlocking opportunities to increase investments in the agriculture sector and guaranteeing food security among smallholders. Through the end-to-end market system that encompasses the aggregation model, WFP facilitated market linkages for 25,678 smallholder farmers from its operational districts to supply 7,555 metric tonnes of various crops including maize, soya beans, groundnuts, sorghum, and common beans valued at USD 2 million. The facilitated market linkages with the private sector act as an exit and sustainability mechanism for farmers beyond WFP support.

Launch of Mechanisation Services: The World Food Programme (WFP) with support from WFP China through South-to-South Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) and the private sector launched four mechanisation Service Centres in Katete and Monze districts of Eastern and Southern Province of Zambia, respectively. The model is anchored on an end-to-end market system that promotes timely planting and minimises labour through the provision of mechanisation services. Further, the model will catalyse the adoption of conservation agriculture, and appropriate post-harvest management practices for improved commodity quality that meet market standards. WFP is leveraging its network of fully capacitated commodity aggregators and savings groups to support the establishment of mechanisation service centres. Private sector equipment suppliers will provide technical support including after sales support and spare parts. The mechanisation services will contribute to enhancing smallholder farmer productivity and incomes.

Capacity Building

Following the completion in July of the Customisation and Risk Transfer Parameter of the Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) Replica insurance, which was supported by WFP to improve the Government's coverage of drought insurance. WFP hosted a simulation exercise to help guide the creation of the final implementation plan if the ARC Replica Drought Insurance triggers in 2023/2024. The simulation exercise sought to increase the Technical Working Group's capacity in processes of preparedness activities and implementation. The session was attended by forty-six (46) government and six (06) WFP staff members.