



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief February 2024



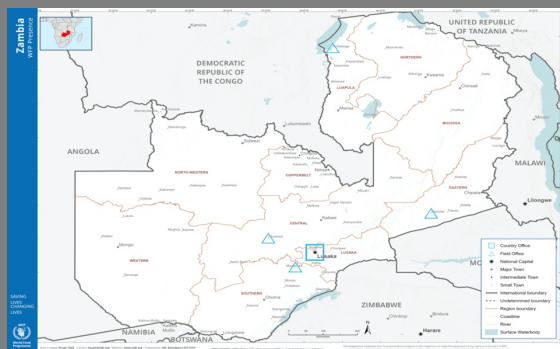
Operational Context

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**

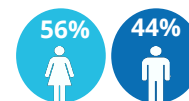
In Numbers

US\$ 60,978 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 4.4 million six-month (March – August 2024) net funding requirements

24,470 people assisted.

In February 2024



Operational Updates

WFP assisted 24,470 people, including 8,300 individuals through crisis response cash assistance, 2,115 people through nutrition improvement interventions, 13,860 individuals through smallholder support and resilience interventions, and 195 through social protection interventions.

Crisis response

WFP continued to provide cash assistance to the refugees and asylum seekers at the Mantapala Refugee Settlement. In February, the total population of refugees in the settlement was 8,300 (4,202 female and 4,098 male). Of these, 1,172 (581 female and 591 male) were asylum seekers.

Strengthened Livelihoods and Building Self-Reliance (SLABS) of Refugees in Mantapala: WFP and Africa Action Help International (AAH) supported livelihoods through capacity building of refugee and host community farmers on effective crop management, aiming to bolster their financial stability. Learning and exchange visits trips to an exemplary agribusiness were done with Green 2000 in Kawambwa District Luapula province. Trip participants gained insights into advanced, eco-friendly farming techniques, technological innovations, and strategies for enhancing product value and establishing market connections, all designed to inspire and inform their agricultural endeavours.

Presidential Declaration of Drought as National Disaster – On 29th February 2024, the President of the Republic of Zambia, Mr Hakainde Hichilema, declared the El Niño Induced drought a **National Disaster and Emergency**. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report covering period October 2023 – March 2024, identifies 2.04 million people to require humanitarian assistance IPC 3 or worse (58,400 classified as IPC 4). The declaration indicates that eighty-four districts including those highlighted in IPC report require urgent humanitarian assistance to reduce food gaps and prevent malnutrition, protect and restore livelihood. The drought has destroyed one million hectares of maize from the 2.2 million hectares resulting in reduced production. Furthermore, water scarcity will impact pasture and drinking water for livestock and wildlife; this has the

Photo: Members Tichitafuna Savings Group gather in Eastern Zambia's Lusangazi district for their regular savings meeting, fostering financial empowerment and community support. WFP/Nkole Mwape.

Contact info: Chileshe Chilambwe (Chileshe.chilambwe@wfp.org)

Country Director: Cissy Byenkya Kabasuuga

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/zambia

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	4.4 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

potential to increase the incidence of human and animal conflicts, as well as diseases.

Nutrition improvement support

SUN II Women Empowerment and Savings Activities: WFP supported the Ministry of Community Development in training beneficiaries under the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN II) Programme. WFP supported the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services in Isoka district to train six new volunteers, all females in savings for change methodology. The community-based trainings covered topics on basic principles of the saving for change methodology, basic information on the 1000 Most Critical Days, financial literacy and, integration of Social Behaviour Change Communication in savings and business skills. It is anticipated that the trained volunteers will help improve extension services to the communities, thereby increasing women participation in economic empowerment and enable women to access loan facilities and establish profitable businesses to increase their household income, food, and nutrition security.

Smallholder support

Rapid Rural Transformation Scoping Mission: In Zambia, only a small fraction of rural households, 4.4 percent, have access to electricity, in stark contrast to the 67 percent in urban areas, despite the country's substantial potential for renewable energy such as hydro, solar, and wind power. The country could greatly benefit from its approximately 3,000 hours of sunshine per year to enhance solar energy production. WFP is currently implementing the Rapid Rural Transformation (RRT) model in two remote camps, Mtambalala in Chipangali district (Eastern province) and Kambilombilo in Lufwanyama district (Copperbelt Province), which have been selected for their off-grid location and potential to demonstrate the impact of the project. The scoping mission involved discussions with a wide array of stakeholders, including government officials, farmers, and local businesses, all of whom expressed support for the initiative. The local communities are particularly enthusiastic about the RRT model's potential to power essential machinery for agricultural processing and reduce the need for long travel distances for services, which will especially benefit women and children. Additionally, small business owners using diesel for operations like maize milling and welding are optimistic about the shift to solar energy, which is expected to lower their operating costs.

Capacity Building

WFP and the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services are collaborating to improve social protection programmes at district and community levels through a Single Window Management Information System (SWMIS). A road map was developed and validated at a workshop in Kabwe, with WFP's support. This aligns with the WFP Strategy for Support to Social Protection (2021). The aim is to bring social services and transfers closer to people, empower local communities and sub-national administration, and improve access to information and transparency through efficient management information systems and appeals mechanisms.

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