



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Zambia Country Brief May 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

**USD 63,559** cash-based transfers made

**USD 43 million** six-month (June–November 2024) net funding requirements

**58,806 people assisted** in May 2024



### Operational Updates

WFP assisted 58,806 people, including 8,620 individuals through crisis response cash assistance, 40,441 people through nutrition improvement interventions, 9,659 individuals through smallholder support and resilience interventions, and 86 people 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, the total population of refugees and asylum seekers assisted through cash-based transfers was 8,620 (4,415 female and 4,205 male).

**Drought Response:** WFP is supporting the Government in responding to a drought triggered by El Nino, which has impacted over 9.8 million people in 84 districts. An estimated 6.6 million people urgently require humanitarian assistance. WFP, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, serving as co-chairs of the Agriculture Food Security and Livestock cluster, are collaborating on a humanitarian response to assist 2.65 million people, which is 40% of those in need. WFP has identified 23 priority districts for direct intervention. In response to a request from the Government, WFP is transporting over 5,000 MT of maize to hard-to-reach locations. In May, WFP delivered 3,389 MT, accounting for 66% of the allocated quantity.

### Nutrition improvement support

**Link communities to financial service providers, including Micro Finance Institutions (MFI) and commercial banks:** Through the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN II) Programme, WFP supported the linkage of 209 savings groups to the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), a crucial milestone in advancing the financial empowerment of women. This initiative was carried out in Lundazi and Chipata districts, together with extension staff, Ward Development Committees, and Ward Councillors. The main objective of this initiative was to support Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and their members to access CDF grants and loan facilities. The members received comprehensive orientation sessions on the CDF guidelines and the application process. As a result of these efforts, the number of VSLAs linked to the CDF has now reached 236.

**Photo:** Members of Ntambalala Camp in Chipangali District, Eastern Province, pose for a photo after completing community work in preparation for the installation of the Energy for Rural Transformation kit project site. [WFP/Nkole Mwape](#)

**Contact info:** Chileshe Chilambwe ([Chileshe.chilambwe@wfp.org](mailto:Chileshe.chilambwe@wfp.org))

**Country Director:** Cissy Byenkya Kabasuuga

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/zambia](http://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	43 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.

## Smallholder Farmer Support

**Installation of Energy for Rural Transformation Kit in Chipangali:** The installation of the Energy for Rural Transformation kit has begun in Ntambalala Camp, located in Chipangali district, Eastern Province. This involved conducting a geophysical survey to assess water availability, creating the initial design for the irrigation system, and providing training for committees and their respective sub-committees to ensure optimal utilisation. Once fully installed, the kit will support water pumping systems and entrepreneurial activities, including crop milling, welding, and lighting at a nearby school. An estimated 1,500 households are to benefit from this initiative. In Kambiliombilo, Lufwanyama district, Copperbelt Province, preparations are underway for installing the energy for rural transformation kit in June 2024.

**Zambia Hosts Integrated Climate Risk Management (ICRM) Regional Knowledge Sharing Workshop:** The Country Office recently hosted the Integrated Climate Risk Management (ICRM) Regional Knowledge Sharing Workshop. The workshop attracted participants from Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Zambia as well as the Regional Bureau for Southern Africa. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) funds the ICRM programme in Southern Africa, which aims to enhance the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate risks, with a particular focus on women, girls, and individuals living with HIV/AIDS. In Zambia, the ICRM approach has helped to strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers using integrated risk management tools, including climate services, savings, insurance, and conservation agriculture.

## Capacity Building

To enhance access to social protection and other services at district and community levels, WFP has continued to support the Single Window Initiative (SWI) being piloted in 47 districts under the leadership of the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS). WFP and the MCDSS concluded discussions on the specifications of the system as the first step to initiating the digitalisation of the SWI to produce aggregate data. Once digitalised, the SWI will serve as a one-stop case management referral center for the social protection sector, with the ultimate goal of integration into the yet-to-be-developed social registry.

## Monitoring

In response to the drought, WFP conducted beneficiary targeting in 8 districts in the Western Province to identify those most in need of assistance. Protection assessments are ongoing in these districts to ensure the safety of vulnerable populations, especially women and children, throughout the response efforts. Furthermore, WFP is collaborating with ZamStats to map markets and identify traders in 84 drought affected districts to facilitate effective market-based interventions.

**Donors:** European Commission, Germany, Ireland, The United States of America, UN Agencies, UN CERF, Africa Development Bank, Private Donors.