



WFP Zambia Country Brief July 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



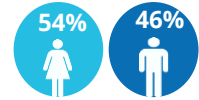
In Numbers

USD 17,388 cash-based transfers distributed

USD 35.4 million six-month net funding requirements (August 2024 – January 2025)

27,112 people assisted.

In July 2024



Operational Updates

WFP assisted 27,112 people, including 8,932 individuals through crisis response cash-based transfers, 3,114 people through nutrition improvement interventions, 14,973 individuals through smallholder support and resilience interventions and 93 through other capacity strengthening activities.

Crisis response/refugees

Food assistance for refugees: WFP continued to provide cash-based transfers to refugees and asylum seekers at the Mantapala refugee settlement. In July, the total population of refugees assisted was 8,932 (4,493 female and 4,439 male).

Strengthened Livelihoods and Building Self-Reliance (SLABS) Project

WFP hosted a delegation from the USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance to appreciate the progress made in the implementation of the SLABS project in Mantapala refugee settlement. The team assessed the progress of the nutrition integration programmes and visited the seed bank, where smallholder farmers are depositing beans and groundnuts for safekeeping and replanting in the next farming season.

Crisis response/drought

Overview: To respond to the El Nino induced drought, WFP plans to address immediate food and nutrition needs by providing food assistance (in-kind food and cash-based transfers) to 1.2 million people in the 23 worst-affected and hard-to-reach districts, providing logistical and humanitarian coordination support to the government, and conducting early recovery interventions.

Logistical support: WFP supported the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) to transport maize from the Food Reserve Agency to hard-to-reach, drought-affected districts. WFP transported 11,016 mt of maize of the planned total of 12,938 mt.

Food assistance: WFP conducted community sensitization in Shikongo and Sioma districts of Western province in preparation for cash-based transfers in August. This included food assistance entitlements, utilisation and preferences; fraud and diversion; and protection and accountability.

Nutrition improvement support

Women's empowerment through Savings for Change:

With technical support from WFP, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and the Ministry of Agriculture conducted training in Monze district of Southern province for 21 new lead volunteers (12 females, 9 males) in the Savings for Change model. The model will improve

Photo: Kamay Witemba, a refugee, showcases part of 1.9 tonnes of beans and 1.8 tonnes of groundnuts deposited in the seed bank via the WFP-supported SLABS project. **WFP/Nkole Mwape**

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 (the most recent being the 2023/2024 El Nino induced drought), 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 United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) 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

2022 Human Development Index: 153 out of 193 countries

Income Level: Low

Stunting: 35 percent of children aged 6–59 months

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

Country Director: Cissy Byenkyia 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	35.4 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

extension services in their communities, thereby increasing women's participation in economic empowerment.

Smallholder farmer support

Crop marketing and aggregation: Despite the recent drought that affected most parts of the country, WFP supported the aggregation of 399.81mt of commodities valued at USD 105,019 from 2,162 smallholder farmers (55percent female, 39 percent youth) across 10 districts, namely, Chama, Chipangali, Chongwe, Chirundu Gwembe, Monze, Mulobezi, Namwala, Senanga, and Sioma. Aggregated commodities include cowpeas, rice, shelled groundnuts, sorghum, soya beans, sunflower, and white maize. WFP also facilitated linkages with off-takers through the Maano Virtual Farmers application. In addition, farmers were trained in post-harvest loss management, handling practices and related technologies.

Field Visit - Ambassador of France to Zambia: WFP hosted the Ambassador of France to Zambia in Gwembe district of Southern province. This visit allowed the Ambassador to observe the effects of the 2023/24 drought on smallholder farming households and witness WFP's integrated resilience-building programme, including climate-smart agriculture, post-harvest loss management, and financial inclusion. The Ambassador also visited Gwembe Primary School to observe the school food production units and delivery of the home-grown school meals programme, implemented by the Ministry of Education with technical support from WFP.

Disaster risk management

Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) Replica insurance payout: Following the payout of USD 3.3 million to WFP from ARC Replica on a drought policy of USD 500,000 taken out during the 2023/2024 season, WFP will complement government emergency response efforts by providing unconditional cash transfers to 169,494 beneficiaries in the eight most hard-to-reach districts in Western province.

Research, assessments and monitoring

Call centre: WFP has continued supporting the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit's drought response call centre, including operators, training and data management.

mVAM remote market monitoring: Food price monitoring results in July showed an increase in prices of maize meal, beans, cooking oil, and salt compared to previous months. These changes were attributed to increased demand in rural areas due to reduced supply. Overall, the cost of a standard food basket for an average household of five per month was USD 69.3.

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC): WFP, together with other partners, supported DMMU to conduct the latest IPC analysis in July. Results will be shared at the National Disaster Management Consultative Forum in August.

Donors: Africa Development Bank, British High Commission in Zambia, European Commission, Germany, Ireland, Private Donors, Sweden, The United States of America, the, UN Agencies, UN CERF (in alphabetical order).