



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief August 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 (the most recent being the 2023/2024 El Niño-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**

In Numbers

15 mt in-kind food assistance distributed in August 2024

USD 522,025 in cash transferred to beneficiaries in August 2024

USD 55.8 million six-month net funding requirements (September 2024 – February 2025)

114,487 people assisted in August 2024



Operational Updates

WFP assisted 114,487 people, including 97,398 individuals through crisis response cash-based transfers, 7,102 people through nutrition improvement interventions, 9,892 individuals through smallholder farmer support and resilience interventions and 95 through training on capacity strengthening activities.

Crisis response/refugees

Food assistance for refugees: WFP continues to provide cash-based transfers to refugees and asylum seekers at the Mantapala refugee settlement. In August WFP assisted a total of 8,866 refugees (4,545 female and 4,321 male).

Crisis response/drought

Overview: To respond to the El Niño-induced drought, WFP is addressing 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 delivered 12,938 mt of maize on behalf of the Government to 81 out of 84 affected districts in Copperbelt, Luapula, Northern, North-Western, Southern and Western provinces.

Food assistance: WFP provided 12.5 mt of maize and 2.5 mt of pulses, to 250 households (1,482 beneficiaries) in Nalolo district in Western province, as support from USAID-BHA drought response assistance. WFP also disbursed cash-based transfers to 87,050 beneficiaries aimed at mitigating the effects of drought in Southern (Monze district) and Western (Shangombo and Sioma districts) province.

Cross-cutting Results: Nutrition and Protection Mainstreaming

UN-to-UN Agreement: WFP through its nutrition and gender, protection and inclusion (GPI) signed a UN-to-UN agreement with UNFPA aimed at strengthening integrated support to populations affected by drought in 17 districts in Central, Eastern, Southern and Western provinces in Zambia through interagency collaboration. The collaboration targets key strategic priority areas and interventions, including conducting community sensitisation to raise awareness among communities on the importance of nutritious diets

Photo: Njai Matomola, with her five children in front of her house (locally called Mashasha) after receiving a 50kg bag of maize and a 10kg of beans from WFP. **WFP/Joseph Kaluba**

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Country Strategic Plan (2023–2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
55.8 m	9.9 m	55.8 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

and optimal maternal, adolescent, infant and young child nutrition as well as messages on handwashing, safe food handling, and other hygiene practices to prevent illness and improve overall health.

In addition, WFP and UNFPA will jointly implement an integrated plan for Sexual & Reproductive Health & Nutrition, Gender, Protection, and Inclusion, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and Accountability to Affected Population. The interventions will be rolled out for five months in 15 districts in Southern and Western provinces, to ensure convergence of interventions among targeted beneficiaries receiving support through in-kind food and cash-based transfer.

Smallholder farmer support

Ambassadors of Sweden, Finland, and Ireland visit

Monze: On 7 and 8 August, WFP hosted Ambassadors of Finland, Ireland, and Finland on a one-day visit to Monze district in Southern province to witness the effects of the 2023/24 drought on smallholder farming households and observe WFP’s integrated resilience-building programme. They also witnessed the launch of an emergency cash transfer payout to 500 (91 percent women) beneficiaries in Kaumba agricultural camp. At the end of the visit, recommendations were made to support smallholder farmers to access seed for the 2024/2025 season, support water harvesting and irrigation interventions as well as expand the caseload of the emergency cash transfer in Monze and other districts.

Visit to Aggregation Hub with Tony Blair Institute (TBI), Presidential Delivery Unit (PDU) and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA):

on 22nd August 2024 WFP held a field mission with the Ministry of Agriculture, TBI and PDU to Lismark Agro dealers, an intermediary aggregator. This mission was taken to showcase the WFP 3-tier aggregation model for TBI who are supporting the Ministry of Agriculture through PDU to develop Aggregation Alliance models. The next step will involve the development of an Aggregation Alliance Hub Framework, with collaborating partners (PDU, TBI, MoA and WFP). The Aggregation Hub will, among others, provide long-term linkages between farmers, buyers, and other key market players to catalyse commercialisation of products as well as encourage private sector investment in farm production, farm input supplies, and service delivery, value addition, and processing. The framework will draw lessons from the 3-tier aggregation developed and implemented through WFP.

Research, assessments and monitoring

mVAM remote market monitoring: Food price monitoring conducted in the markets in August showed a decrease in the price of maize and beans while cooking oil and salt recorded a slight increase compared to the previous month. Overall, prices continue to fluctuate but remain high. The cost of a standard food basket for an average household of five per month in August was ZMW 1,611 (USD 61.63), reflecting a 10.1 percent reduction from ZMW 1,792 (USD71.69) reported in July.

Donors

Africa Development Bank, British High Commission in Zambia, European Commission, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Private Donors, Sweden, The United States of America,