



WFP Zambia Country Brief September 2024

World Food Programme

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 (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**

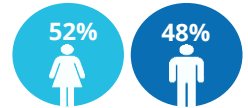
Stunting: **35 percent of children aged 6–59 months**

In Numbers

US\$ 120,617 in cash transferred to beneficiaries in September 2024

US\$ 31.7 million six-month net funding requirements (October 2024 – March 2025)

28,546 people assisted in September 2024



Operational Updates

WFP assisted 28,546 people through various interventions in September. Of these, 18,245 individuals received crisis response support via cash-based transfers, while 859 people benefited from nutrition improvement interventions. Additionally, 9,386 individuals were supported through smallholder farmer support and resilience-building interventions, and 56 people participated in capacity-strengthening training.

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 September WFP assisted 8,866 refugees (51 percent female).

Strengthened livelihoods and building self-Reliance (SLABS) of refugees in Mantapala: In collaboration with Action Africa Help, WFP provided 10 drip irrigation kits and irrigated agricultural land at selected water sources for 50 beneficiaries as part of its livelihood projects. The initiative aims to promote healthier nutrition among refugee households by ensuring year-round vegetable production..

Crisis response/drought

To respond to the El Niño-induced drought, WFP is providing food assistance (in-kind food and cash-based transfers) to 1.2 million people in 23 of the worst-affected, hard-to-reach districts. WFP is also supporting the Government with logistics, humanitarian response, and coordination, while conducting early recovery interventions. WFP has completed targeting for early drought recovery assistance for 60,000 farmers in the Central, Eastern, Southern, and Western provinces.

Food and cash assistance: As part of USAID-BHA support for the drought response, WFP has procured 6,376 mt of maize from Tanzania. On 29 September, 50 trucks carrying 2,013 mt of maize from Tanzania arrived in Lusaka for distribution in the Southern and Western provinces. WFP also conducted a community sensitization exercise in Sioma District, Western Province, in preparation for cash-based transfers and then disbursed cash-based transfers to 9,379 people to mitigate the effects of drought in the district.

Photo: WFP completed installation of irrigation system in Monze district, in Western Province part of the affordable smallholder mechanism pilot project. Photo: **WFP/Oggie Nedeljovic**

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)
109.7 m	41.4 m	31.7 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

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 Mpika and Chiengi Districts in Luapula Province. A total of 170 new lead volunteers (animators) were trained in the savings for change model. The model will improve extension services in their communities, thereby increasing women’s participation in economic empowerment. In addition, WFP and Action Africa Help conducted a training attended by 53 women and 7 men, on the importance of a balanced diet, breastfeeding, and lactation nutrition as well as hygiene and food safety.

Smallholder Farmer Support

Irrigation development in Monze: WFP installed 3 hectares of drip irrigation for the Hope Savings Group as part of an affordable smallholder mechanization pilot project supported by the Government of China. This initiative will enable community members to produce food year-round, enhancing food security and income generation. Additionally, sites for water harvesting have been identified in the Gwembe and Mumbwa districts, located in the Southern and Central Provinces, respectively.

Training on Agricultural and Climate Risk Insurance: WFP participated in a workshop on agricultural and climate risk insurance, focusing on the core concepts of agricultural index insurance, including weather, area yield, and livestock indices, along with their potential benefits for farmers. The workshop also addressed the business case for integrating such insurance products for agribusinesses, banks, market functionality, and farmer organizations. Additionally, discussions centred on developing suitable products for the 2024/2025 farming season to ensure adequate risk management for both farmers and agribusinesses.

Capacity Building

To support the effective implementation of the emergency school feeding program in 36 of the 84 drought-affected districts, WFP provided technical support to the Ministry of Education. This included defining implementation protocols, establishing key indicators, and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders at the national, regional, district, school, and community levels. The emergency school feeding program is part of the Government’s national drought response plan, supported by partners.

Research, assessments and monitoring.

mVAM remote market monitoring: Food price monitoring conducted in September showed a continued increase in prices of food commodities. The cost of a standard food basket for an average household of five per month in September was ZMW 1,693.50 (US\$ 63.79), reflecting a 0.8 percent increase from ZMW 1,611 (US\$61.63) reported in August.

Donors: Africa Risk Capacity, Danish Refugee Council, France, German Federal Foreign Office, Ireland, Japan, South Korea, KfW Development Bank, Sweden, United Nations Children’s Fund, United Nations Central Emergency Fund, United Kingdom, United States of America,