



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief October 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.



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**

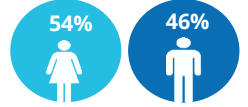
In Numbers

100 mt in-kind food assistance distributed

USD 1.4 million in cash transferred to beneficiaries in October 2024

USD 33.2 million six-month net funding requirements (November 2024 – April 2025) representing 54 percent of total needs.

247,673 people assisted in October 2024



Operational Updates

In the month of October, WFP assisted 247,673 people, including 233,545 drought affected individuals and refugees through crisis response (cash-based transfers and food distributions); 1,394 people through nutrition improvement interventions; 12,568 individuals through smallholder farmer support and resilience interventions and 166 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 October, WFP assisted a total of 8,945 refugees (4,535 female and 4,410 male).

Strengthened Livelihoods and Building Self-Reliance (SLABS) of Refugees and Host Communities in Mantapala:

WFP distributed 1,000 handheld hoes to SLABS project beneficiaries to improve their farming equipment for the 2024/2025 season. In collaboration with Africa Action Help International (AAH), 53 smallholder farmers in the refugee settlement were trained in food processing, preservation, and storage. This training aimed at reducing food waste, enhance the economic stability of small-scale farmers, and improve access to markets. Topics included drying fresh sweet potatoes, mushrooms and vegetables, smoking chicken and milling maize.

Crisis response/drought

In October, WFP assisted 224,600 (134,760 female and 89,840 male) people across 8 districts in Western and Southern provinces. WFP has begun scaling up food delivery through commodity vouchers, allowing 20,095 people assisted in October to receive support through local traders. The use of vouchers is aimed to stimulate local markets and ensure that the beneficiaries have access to nutritious foods.

Nutrition improvement support

WFP supported the training of 1,280 and orientation of 1,980 Village Saving and Lending Associations (VSLA) community volunteers in all 17 districts under the Scaling Up Nutrition II programme. These volunteers will support the formation of additional VSLA groups. A total of 219 staff members from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, working at district and sub-district levels, were trained in the Savings for Change model.

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Photo: Kabulamwanda drought recovery input distribution point in Namwala district, Southern province.

Photo: WFP/Chileshe Chilambwe

Country Strategic Plan (2023–2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
109.7 m	79.3 m	33.2 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

This training aims to equip them to support VSLA volunteers in reaching the target of additional women of reproductive age.

Smallholder Farmer Support

Launch of the Input Distribution under the Drought Recovery Programme:

On the 21st and 22nd of October, WFP launched input distributions in Kazungula and Namwala districts of the Southern Province, respectively. A total of 1,359 beneficiaries received input packs that included maize, cowpeas, and a variety of vegetables such as tomatoes, onions, rape, and amaranthus. The scaleup for the rollout of input distributions to all other districts is planned for November 2024.

Seasonal Weather Forecast Dissemination:

From 21st to 31st October WFP supported the dissemination of seasonal forecast in 39 districts of Southern, Western, Eastern, Muchinga, Central and Lusaka provinces, with a total of 450 participants in attendance from key line ministries. Following these provincial-level dissemination events, community-level sessions will be conducted by extension staff from the Ministry of Agriculture. The dissemination of the rainfall forecast for the 2024/2025 season aims to enhance agricultural planning and improve food security at both household and national levels. This initiative is especially vital for Agro-Ecological Regions I and II, which experienced a rainfall deficit in the previous season.

Capacity Building

WFP supported the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit, in developing a multi-hazard national contingency plan (MHCP) to timely plan and coordinate response actions anticipated during the 2024/2025 rainfall season. The plan was finalized on October 10 and involved the participation of Government ministries and departments as well as specialised United Nations Agencies, and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). The MHCP includes early actions, preparedness, response and recovery activities aimed at minimising the impact of the floods on the human population, livelihoods and the environment thus reducing the scale of humanitarian needs for the affected populations across the following clusters - Agriculture, Food Security, Fisheries and Livestock, Education, Energy, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Health, Infrastructure, Protection, Logistics, and Risk Communication and Community Engagement.

Research, assessments and monitoring

mVAM remote market monitoring: Food price monitoring conducted in October 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 October was ZMW 1,700 (USD 64) reflecting a 0.3 percent increase from September.

Donors

Africa Development Bank, Africa Risk Capacity, Danish Refugee Council, France, German Federal Foreign Office, Ireland, Japan, Korea, KfW Development Bank, Sweden, United Kingdom, United Nations Central Emergency Fund, United Nations Children's Fund, United States of America (in alphabetical order)