



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Zambia Country Brief November 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: **32 percent of children aged 6–59 months**

## In Numbers

**381 mt** in-kind food assistance distributed

**USD 1.85 million** in cash transferred to beneficiaries in November 2024

**USD 22.5 million** six-month net funding requirements (December 2024 – May 2025) representing 45 percent of total needs.

**~248,000 people assisted in November 2024**



## Operational Updates

In November, WFP assisted ~248,000 people, including ~232,100 drought-affected individuals and refugees through crisis response (cash-based transfers and food distributions); ~1,100 people through nutrition improvement interventions; ~14,300 individuals through smallholder farmer support and resilience interventions; and ~90 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 November, WFP assisted a total of ~9,100 refugees (4,600 female and 4,500 male).

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

In collaboration with Africa Action Help International (AAH), WFP began distributing inputs in the Mantapala Refugee Settlement and the surrounding host community. By the end of November, 1,014 out of the 1,200 beneficiaries of the SLABs Project had redeemed their input packs. These packs contained maize, groundnuts, beans, cassava cuttings, and a variety of vegetables. The distributions will be completed in the first week of December for the remaining beneficiaries.

### Crisis response/drought

In November, WFP assisted 232,100 (125,300 female and 106,800 male) people across 10 districts in Eastern, Southern and Western provinces (67 percent increase from last month as relief activities are scaled up). WFP assisted 156,600 people through cash-based transfers, 57,700 people through commodity vouchers (working with 10 private sector retailers) and 17,700 people through in-kind food distributions. The total tonnage of food distributed included 340 metric tons (MT) of cereals, 34 MT of pulses, and 7 MT of cooking oil.

### Nutrition improvement support

**Gender and Nutrition:** To enhance efforts in integrating gender and nutrition for improved nutritional outcomes, WFP conducted a training session on gender and nutrition in the Mantapala Refugee settlement. The training was attended by 61 participants (19 males and 42 females) and aimed to explore the complex relationship between gender and nutrition, highlighting the various dynamics that influence individuals' access to and use of nutritious food. Key topics discussed in the

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**Photo:** Drought in-kind-food distribution point in Sinanzongwe district, Southern province. Photo: **WFP/Joseph Kaluba**

## Country Strategic Plan (2023–2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
<b>109.7 m</b>	<b>79.3 m</b>	<b>22.5 m</b>

### 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

training included: the connection between food and gender; gender inequality and malnutrition; gender's impact on adolescent nutritional needs; the significance of gender in nutrition initiatives; factors influencing gender dynamics in nutrition; nutritional intake differences between genders; and how gender affects food choices. This comprehensive approach aims to increase comprehension and address the nutritional needs of different genders, ultimately contributing to better nutrition outcomes for all.

### Smallholder Farmer Support

**Input distribution under drought recovery programme:** In November, WFP distributed agricultural inputs to ~25,800 people (43 percent of target) in 11 districts across Eastern, Luapula, Southern, and Western provinces. Beneficiaries received packs of drought-tolerant and nutrient-rich crops, including cereals, tubers, legumes, and various vegetables. WFP aims to complete the distribution by December.

**Insurance Payout following the 2023/2024 drought:** In Zambia, WFP has been providing technical assistance to the Government to strengthen national capacities and systems for climate risk financing and insurance. Using the lessons learnt from the index insurance piloted under the Integrated Climate Risk Management project, WFP supported the government to improve the design and management of the insurance provided under the Farmers Input Support Programme (FISP) which currently reaches 1 million smallholder farmers. In November, WFP participated in FISP Insurance payout ceremonies under PULA and ZEP-RE's Consortium of Insurance companies. A total of 722,000 smallholder farmers out of the 1,024,000 farmers who were insured by the Consortiums received payouts to the sum of over ZMW 937,221,100 (USD 34.4 million). This was the largest index payout to smallholder farmers from a single intervention, as well as the highest number of farmers to receive index payout in Africa.

### Capacity Strengthening

To strengthen early warning systems, enhance shock responsiveness and build community resilience, WFP supported the training of 38 government and implementing partner staff in Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) and Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) approaches across six districts in Choma. The CBPP training, which targeted community leaders, empowered the development committee in Gamela Ward in Choma district to work collaboratively, ensuring that planning and decision-making processes were inclusive and transparent. This knowledge will enable them to develop more targeted, seasonal support plans that address specific needs during critical times of the year, such as planting and weeding seasons. Ultimately, the training equipped them with tools and approaches to create integrated livelihood programming plans with a disaster risk reduction focus supporting early action, preparedness and response strategies that will strengthen community resilience.

### Research, assessments and monitoring.

**mVAM remote market monitoring:** Food price monitoring conducted in November 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 November was ZMW 1,772 (USD 65.2) reflecting a 4.2 per cent increase from October.

**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).