



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief December 2024

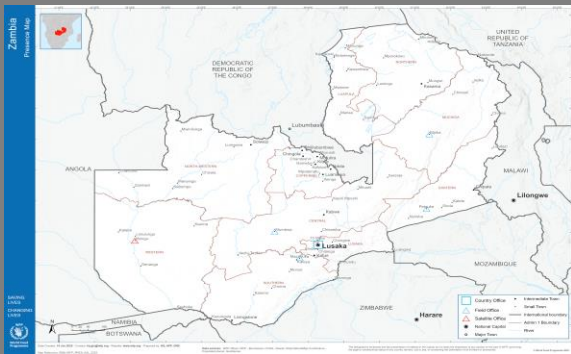


Operational Context

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**

2023 Human Development Index: **153 out of 193 countries**

Income Level: **Low**

Stunting: **32 percent of children aged 6-59 months**

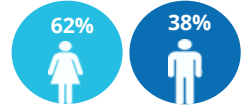
In Numbers

10,344 mt in-kind food assistance distributed

USD 3.93 million in cash transferred to beneficiaries in December 2024

USD 22.4 million six-month net funding requirements (January – June 2025) representing 54 percent of total needs.

791,220 people assisted in December 2024



Operational Updates

In December, WFP assisted 791,220 people, including 673,996 drought-affected individuals and refugees through crisis response (cash-based transfers and food distributions); 16,583 people through nutrition improvement interventions; 100,513 individuals through smallholder farmer support and resilience interventions; and 128 people through training on capacity strengthening activities.

Crisis Response: Refugee Support Programmes

Food assistance for refugees: WFP continues to provide cash-based transfers to refugees and asylum seekers at the Mantapala refugee settlement. In December, WFP assisted 8,976 refugees (4,555 female and 4,421 male).

Strengthened Livelihoods and Building Self-Reliance (SLABS) of Refugees and Host Communities in Mantapala: In collaboration with Africa Action Help International (AAH), WFP concluded the distribution of inputs in the Mantapala Refugee Settlement and the surrounding host community. By the end of December, all 1,200 (1000 refugees and 200 host community) beneficiaries of the SLABs Project had redeemed their input packs, which contained maize, groundnuts, beans, cassava cuttings, and various vegetables.

Crisis response: Drought Food Assistance Interventions

In December, WFP assisted 654,280 people across six provinces in Zambia. During this time, 10,344 metric tons of in-kind food distributions reached 92,355 individuals. Additionally, 498,570 people received cash-based transfers, while 63,355 people were provided with commodity vouchers. WFP responded to urgent food needs while also supporting local markets and retailers.

Nutrition improvement support

Gender and Nutrition: To advance gender, protection, and inclusion efforts, WFP partnered with the Zambia Agency for People with Disabilities (ZAPD), the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS), the United Nations Information Centre and the Resident Coordinator's office to conduct training on disability-inclusive food security programming in Zambia's Western and Southern provinces. A total of 46 participants (30 female and 16 male) from organizations for persons with disabilities attended, fostering

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Photo: Representatives from government, organizations of persons with disabilities and the UN, pose for a photo after the close of the disability inclusive food security workshop: **WFP/Joseph Kaluba**

Country Strategic Plan (2023–2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
177.7 m	86.5 m	22.4 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

networking and enabling MCDSS and Ministry of Agriculture representatives to align priorities and share knowledge. While participants displayed a strong awareness of community-based drought coping mechanisms, they faced challenges in long-term planning, setting feasible objectives, and designing inclusive community engagement plans. Gaps in accessibility and timely participant coordination highlighted the need for improved accommodations in future initiatives. A request was made for WFP and partners to enhance food assistance access for persons with disabilities through social protection safety nets and food distribution programmes.

Smallholder Farmer Support

Input distribution under drought recovery programme: WFP has continued its input distribution activities, reaching a total of 52,826 beneficiaries across 17 districts. These beneficiaries have received input packs for drought-tolerant and nutrient-rich crops, including cereals (maize and sorghum), tubers (cassava and sweet potatoes), legumes (groundnuts, cowpeas, and beans), and assorted vegetables (tomatoes, onions, rape, and amaranthus). The distribution activities are expected to be completed by the end of January 2025.

Inception Meeting for Zambia's Warehouse Receipt System (WRS)

(WRS): WFP participated in an inception meeting for Zambia's Warehouse Receipt System (WRS), where consultants presented a proposed roadmap for the operationalization of the WRS and the establishment of a Warehouse Licensing Authority in Zambia. The roadmap was validated by stakeholders, and case studies from countries such as Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, the USA, and Turkey were shared to highlight key challenges and opportunities. The lessons drawn from these case studies are expected to guide the development of Zambia's WRS. The next step is the preparation of a situational analysis report for ZAMACE, which will further inform the implementation process.

Capacity Strengthening

To ensure the integration of gender equality, women's empowerment, and disability inclusion into the emergency school feeding programme in ten out of thirty-six districts, WFP supported the training of 225 individuals, including eight district/provincial staff (2 females and 6 males) and 217 School Health and Nutrition (SHN) teachers (120 females and 97 males). The training covered gender-specific nutritional needs, with a particular focus on adolescent girls, and raised awareness of the nutritional requirements of individuals with disabilities.

Research, assessments and monitoring.

mVAM Remote Market Monitoring: Food price monitoring conducted in December showed a continued increase in the cost of a basic food basket for an average household of five, which provides the recommended 2,100 kilocalories per day. The cost of a standard food basket for an average household of five per month in December was ZMW 1,802 (USD 66.7) reflecting a 1.69 percent increase from November.

Donors:

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