



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Zambia Country Brief August 2025

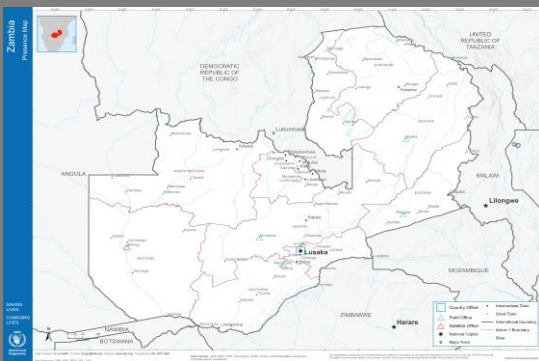


Operational Context

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**

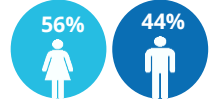
Stunting: **32 percent of children aged 6–59 months**

In Numbers

USD 66,522.94 in cash-based transfers to beneficiaries in August 2025

USD 1.6 million six-month net funding requirements (September 2025 - February 2026).

62,485 people assisted in August 2025



Operational Updates

In August, WFP assisted 62,485 people, including 9,610 refugees through crisis response (cash-based transfers), 16,283 people through nutrition improvement interventions, and 36,327 individuals through smallholder farmer support and resilience interventions and 265 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 August, WFP assisted 9,610 refugees.

Nutrition improvement support

Nutrition Education: To enhance the nutritional quality and safety of meals served through school feeding programmes, WFP facilitated the training of 800 school cooks following the earlier capacity-building of 206 School Health and Nutrition (SHN) coordinators across 12 districts. The training focused on equipping cooks with practical knowledge on nutritious diets, clean cooking solutions, safe food storage, hygiene practices, and the use of WASH stations. With this enhanced capacity, school cooks are now better positioned to prepare safe and nutritious meals for over 150,000 learners, contributing to improved learner health, concentration, and educational outcomes.

Smallholder Farmer Support

Strengthening Zambia's Climate Risk Preparedness for ARC

Pool 12B Participation: To advance Zambia's preparedness for climate-related risks and enable participation in Africa Risk Capacity's (ARC) Pool 12B for the 2025/2026 agricultural season, WFP, working in collaboration with the Government of Zambia and ARC, facilitated a strategic workshop to update the country's Africa Risk View (ARV) configuration and renew its Operations Plan. The workshop convened representatives from key government ministries and agencies, including Agriculture, Finance and National Planning, Statistics, Zambia Agriculture Research Institute, Zambia Meteorological Department, Fisheries and Livestock, and Community Development and Social Services, alongside ARC, and Catholic Relief Services. The exercise resulted in updated ARV parameters, a revised national risk profile, and strengthened inter-agency coordination. Next steps include final submission of the Operations Plan to ARC,

Photo: Febby, a smallholder farmer from Chipanagali, shares a glass of homemade soya milk with her child—one of the nutritious recipes she learned during nutrition training under the Alternative Livelihoods Project. **Photo:** WFP/Nkole Mwape

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Country Strategic Plan (2023–2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
177.7 m	90.4 m	1.6 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

Operational Updates (continued)

continued technical capacity strengthening, and monitoring progress toward Pool 12B implementation.

Multi-Country Workshop on Alternative Livelihoods to Tobacco Growing (12–14 August 2025, Lusaka): WFP, in partnership with WHO and the Government of Zambia, continues to support smallholder farmers in Chipangali District to transition from tobacco to sustainable alternatives, with Phase II in 2025 reaching 1,500 households across seven camps. To consolidate progress, Zambia hosted a regional workshop with participants from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Malawi. The workshop served as a platform for sharing lessons learned, identifying sustainable financing mechanisms, and exploring innovative approaches to strengthen the implementation and enforcement of tobacco control measures. Key outcomes included agreement on regional collaboration, identification of priority areas for financing and policy harmonization, and commitment to a regional knowledge-sharing framework. Next steps include drafting a regional action plan, establishing a technical working group, and mobilizing resources for scale-up.

Capacity Strengthening

To strengthen the county's disaster risk readiness and response capacity, WFP supported the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU) in developing an Operational Plan as part of the 2024–2025 agricultural season. The workshop held in Siavonga focused on two key objectives including, reviewing the implementation of the 2023/2024 drought insurance payout in 15 districts and developing Operational Plans to enable the timely implementation of early response activities that aim to support life-saving interventions for vulnerable households facing increasingly frequent and intense climate shocks. Twenty-five (25) representatives from key government agencies such as DMMU, Zambia Meteorological Department, Zambia Statistical Agency, and the Ministries of Agriculture, Community Development and Social Services, and Fisheries and Livestock, as well as the NGO Care participated in the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by the Africa Risk Capacity agency.

Anticipatory Action: As part of its commitment to strengthening anticipatory action (AA) systems in Zambia, WFP supported the Zambia Meteorological Department (ZMD) through a series of technical online trainings aimed at developing drought triggers. The sessions introduced the AA framework, covering drought indicators, thresholds, forecasts, and triggers, drawing on practical examples from Zimbabwe. The training also advanced into seasonal monitoring techniques, including agro-meteorological systems, data blending, assimilation, and quality control. This proactive capacity-building initiative laid the groundwork for a physical training scheduled for September, where Zambia's drought triggers will be finalized to enable timely, data-driven early warning and response.

Donors: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the European Commission, the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, The People's Republic of China, Private donors, Russia, United Nations Children's Fund, United States of America, UN-CERF, WHO, and The Government of Zambia.