



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief October 2025



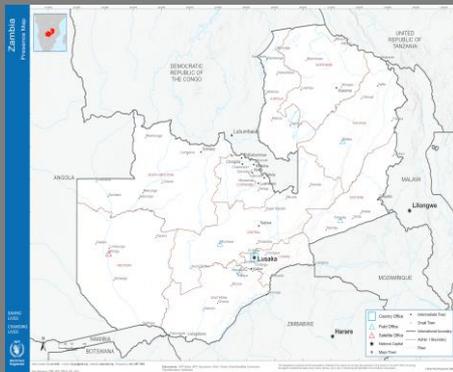
Operational Context

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.

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

Contact info: Chileshe Chilambwe (Chileshe.chilambwe@wfp.org)

Country Director: Cissy Byenkya Kabasuuga

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/zambia

In Numbers



USD 72,858 cash-based transfers made to beneficiaries in October

USD 1.58 million six-month net funding requirements (November 2025 - April 2026)

60,480 people assisted in October 2025

- **9,666** refugees through cash-based transfers
- **18,437** through nutrition interventions
- **32,006** through smallholder farmer support
- **371** through capacity strengthening

Strategic Updates

- **Refugee response:** Mantapala Refugee Settlement remains peaceful, with rising arrivals from Kenya, Burundi, and DRC. The population increased from 10,435 in September 2025 to 10,719 (3,432 households) in October. Of these, 8,748 were refugees (4,321 female, 4,427 male) and 1,971 were asylum seekers (761 female, 1,210 male). WFP supported 2,676 households—representing 9,666 individuals—through cash transfers totalling USD 72,858.
- **Scaling Climate-Smart Solutions for Household Food Security:** WFP is advancing climate-resilient livelihoods by scaling up irrigation and post-harvest technologies to improve household food security and nutrition. In Monze and Choma, 55 irrigation kits and net drier materials have been distributed to Village Savings and Loan Associations to boost vegetable production, nutrition, and food preservation. A further 206 irrigation kits and 24 bundles of netting for 2,400 solar dryers will benefit 4,000 farmers. Installation trainings, supported by Green 2000, were conducted physically in Mpika, Kaoma, and Shangombo, and virtually for district staff in Monze and Choma, strengthening local capacity.
- **Yellow Split Peas Sensitization:** Following the Government of France's contribution of yellow split peas to support the Emergency Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, in October WFP sensitized 130 schools and trained 244 school heads and health nutrition teachers (95 male, 149 female) on nutrition education and practical preparation. Recipes and guidance were shared via WhatsApp with district staff from Ministries of Agriculture, Education and Health and the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC), reinforcing a multi-sectoral approach. Schools have begun incorporating yellow split peas into meals under the Government Home Grown School meals Programme.
- **Food Systems:** In October, WFP joined the Food Systems Technical Working Group to review annual progress and prepare for the December 2025 Food Systems Conference, where it will present findings from the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) analysis to guide policy and investment decisions. Efforts are underway to strengthen collaboration by engaging the private sector and integrating the National Dialogue System Conference into the Food Systems Conference alongside FAO, WHO, UNICEF, and NFNC. Preparations focus on ensuring inclusive participation and evidence-based discussions to advance resilient, nutrition-sensitive food systems.

Country Strategic Plan (2023–2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
177.7 m	106.7 m	1.58 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

- **Launch of CROPSCOPE Project Driving Climate-Resilient Agriculture in Zambia:** The Climate Smart Smallholder Farming for Productive, Sustainable, and Resilient Agriculture in Zambia (CROPSCOPE) project was officially launched on 30 October 2025 at the Hope Savings Group Irrigation Scheme in Monze District. The event showcased digital climate-smart technologies to strengthen smallholder resilience through stakeholder engagement, technology demonstrations, and capacity building. Key activities included installing soil moisture sensors in Monze and Chipangali, demonstrating the CROPSCOPE platform, and guided tours of the irrigation scheme, complemented by farmer and extension officer testimonials. The event convened a diverse coalition of partners, including the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP, NEC Africa, private sector actors, and local farming communities, underscoring the collaborative approach needed to scale impact.

- **Integrated School Feeding Programme Advancing Education and Sustainability:** In October, WFP continued to strengthen the Home-Grown School Meals Programme by integrating nutrition, sustainable agriculture, and hygiene with active community participation. Twelve school gardens were established in Kasenengwa, Chipata, and Lusaka, part of 35 planned across eight districts, featuring drip irrigation for water efficiency and sustainable production. Sixty (60) school production committee members were trained in garden management and sustainability. When all 35 gardens are operational by December 2025, 35,543 learners (18,503 girls and 17,040 boys) will benefit. Complementary actions include installing energy-efficient cookstoves and handwashing stations to improve hygiene, reduce environmental impact, and promote cleaner cooking. Parent involvement through production committees reinforces community ownership and long-term sustainability.

Looking Forward

- In November, irrigation kit and solar dryer installations will be completed, with site progress updates expected. Yellow split peas sensitization sessions will be conducted in the remaining districts, and learner reach will be reported. CERF beneficiary trainings will cover nutrition social and behavior change, value addition, and disability inclusion. The school meals technical assistance inception mission will also take place.

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.

Photo Caption: Clement a member of Hope Savings demonstrates the use of Cropscope online application during the CropScope launch in Monze-@WFP/Bwalya Yamba