



WFP ZAMBIA

COUNTRY BRIEF

April 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP supported the Government-led Home-Grown School Meals programme through integrated school garden investments in Chilanga and Chongwe districts. In parallel, WFP completed SABER field consultations with the Ministry of Education to inform future improvements and scale-up of the national school feeding programme.
- Integrated resilience and livelihoods programming deepened smallholder farmers' capacity to withstand shocks by linking climate-smart production, digital financial inclusion, and market-oriented support into a cohesive drought recovery response.

IN NUMBERS



283,946 people assisted in March 2026



40%
Male



60%
Female



5,515.56 mt food distributed



USD 63,404.84 cash transferred



USD 2.1 M (MAY – OCT 2026) net funding requirements

Ackson, an ELSAM project beneficiary, shares climate-smart agriculture practices with government, EU and WFP officials in Chikowa, Mambwe District. WFP/Joseph Kaluba

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Humanitarian needs in Zambia continue to be driven by recurrent climate shocks, persistent rural poverty, and constrained fiscal space, with droughts, flooding and high temperatures undermining agricultural production and eroding household resilience. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) forecast for January – March 2026, estimates 17 percent (1.7 million people) to be at risk of food insecurity.
- Vulnerabilities remain acute among women, youth, children and refugees, who face high levels of food insecurity, limited livelihood opportunities, and elevated protection risks, including widespread malnutrition and stunting.
- Structural drivers of food insecurity, including low agricultural productivity, high post-harvest losses, limited access to markets, and restricted financing, continue to affect smallholder farmers, particularly women, young people and persons with disabilities.
- WFP is supporting the Government through an integrated approach that provides life-saving food and nutrition assistance, strengthens livelihoods and food systems, and enhances national capacities for emergency preparedness and shock-responsive social protection, in line with the [Zambia Country Strategic Plan \(2023–2028\)](#) and its [five Strategic Outcomes](#).

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

General Food Assistance

- In March, WFP delivered assistance through monthly cash-based transfers in Mantapala, supporting 10,095 refugees with USD 63,404.84. Through the China funded lean season response, distributions of maize and beans continued in Chirundu, Siavonga, Sinazongwe, Itezhi-Tezhi, Sioma, Senanga, Sesheke and Shangombo, reaching 153,572 people. Community-based Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) interventions reached over 78,000 people, encouraging improved Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), dietary diversification, and adolescent nutrition practices.
- With technical support from WFP, the government Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit distributed yellow split peas to 8,497 people and 6,683 people received vegetable oil donated by the Government of the Russian Federation, combined with Government supplied cereal to ensure food security for targeted vulnerable people in 64 districts during the peak of the lean season.
- Drought recovery and resilience programming supported over 17,500 farmers with coordinated access to extension, climate information, markets, nutrition messaging, and financial services, while strengthening school-based nutrition education, reaching more than 22,600 learners.

Nutrition

- In March, WFP prioritized preventive nutrition interventions by strengthening coordination systems and promoting community-based approaches. WFP reinforced nutrition governance by reorienting three Provincial Nutrition Coordinating Committees and orienting District Nutrition Coordinating Committees in eight districts.
- WFP also strengthened national and subnational coordination mechanisms to advance preventive nutrition, while implementing targeted nutrition sensitive interventions that aligned community action with government systems and priorities.
- Nutrition sensitive value addition was promoted through participatory needs assessments that identified 20 women led groups to receive food processing, preservation, and diversification equipment aimed at improving household

nutrition and food availability. WFP worked closely with national systems and partners, supporting the National Food and Nutrition Commission and engaging in the Nutrition Cooperating Partners Group and Food Systems Technical Working Group to ensure alignment with national priorities.

Social Protection

- In March, WFP supported the delivery and strengthening of the Government-led Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) programme through integrated school-based production interventions. With support from the Government of France, seven school gardens were established in Chilanga and Chongwe districts in line with the national strategy of one-hectare gardens per school.
- Each site was equipped with water tanks, tank stands, drip irrigation systems and seeds, enabling sustainable vegetable production to supplement school meals and contribute to programme self-reliance. Additional investments included clean cookstoves to reduce reliance on wood fuel and handwashing stations to reinforce hygiene practices within the school feeding environment. Early results from these interventions were highlighted through a field visit by WFP and the French Ambassador to Zambia at Antioch and Mphango Primary Schools in Chongwe district.
- At a systems level, WFP and the Ministry of Education concluded Systematic Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) field consultations across Muchinga, North-Western and Western Provinces. Building on national desk reviews, engagements at provincial, district and school levels generated practical insights into how the school feeding programme functions on the ground, including operational strengths, implementation gaps and opportunities for improvement. The findings will be validated during a national stakeholders' meeting scheduled for 29–30 April and are expected to guide future government and partner investments in the HGSM programme.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

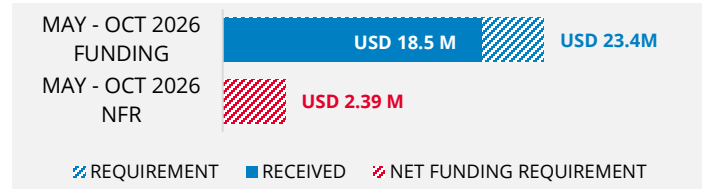
- A nationwide financial literacy and Maano sensitization and onboarding initiative strengthened institutional capacity and farmer

access to digital services, with 165 government extension and marketing officers trained across 33 districts, followed by farmer sensitization that registered 15,289 new users, bringing total platform users to 142,803.

- Under the Green Nexus European Commission funded Enhancing Livelihoods and Smallholder Agriculture Markets (ELSAM) project, WFP advanced climate smart and diversified livelihood practices, including Conservation Agriculture, agroforestry, beekeeping, aggregation, and community-based savings mechanisms, contributing to improved soil fertility, income opportunities, and household resilience.
- Resilience outcomes were further strengthened through integrated drought recovery programming, which supported 17,500 smallholder farmers, 59 percent women, with coordinated access to extension services, climate information, markets, nutrition messaging, and financial services. Integrated Landscape Management practices were expanded, resulting in the planting of over 11,600 fruit trees, while 407 savings groups mobilised USD 123,744, strengthening households’ shock absorption and investment capacity. WFP also strengthened risk management through the onboarding of 3,000 sorghum farmers onto agricultural insurance under the AB InBev out grower initiative.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2028)



Caption: EU Ambassador to Zambia, H.E Karolina Stasiak viewing local foods displayed by nutrition champions Kakumbi 2 agricultural camp, Mambwe district, Eastern province, during a site visit to appreciate the impact of the ELSAM project under the Green Nexus Programme. WFP/Joseph Kaluba

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

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