



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Zambia Country Brief January 2021



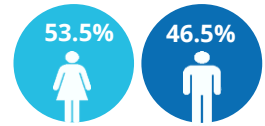
## In Numbers

8.07 mt food assistance distributed

US\$ 132,603 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 1.75 m six-month (February – July 2021) net funding requirements

70,770 people assisted in JANUARY 2021



## Operational Updates

In January, WFP assisted 70,770 people, including 15,660 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo with cash and food assistance and 37,258 smallholder farmers through resilience and recovery interventions. Additionally, WFP assisted 17,805 people through nutrition interventions, while 47 people were reached through social protection activities.

Under the COVID-19 response, WFP engaged an additional local financial service provider to pilot cash payments to selected beneficiaries in an effort to enhance cash disbursement and redemption rates by diversifying digital payment platforms. Since July 2020, WFP has assisted 64,393 households (321,965 people) out of the targeted 64,415 households, with each household receiving ZMW 400 (USD 19.07) per month. By December 2020, some 23,900 households in Lusaka, Kafue and Chilanga districts received their full payments for the planned six months, while the remaining 40,500 households will continue to receive assistance until April 2021.

As of January, WFP transitioned to cash-based transfers (CBT) for 94 percent of the refugee population in the Mantapala Refugee Settlement; 15,126 refugees from the targeted 5,000, who were also reached in 2020. Over ZMW 2.8 million (USD 132,600) has been distributed, with each refugee receiving ZMW 187 (USD 8.8). The transfer value was increased in January 2021 from ZMW 155 (USD 7.4) due to higher food prices. The remaining 534 refugees who could not be transitioned to CBT (such as households headed by children aged below 16 years, people without identification documents, and those who had temporarily left the settlement or do not have registered SIM cards) continued to receive food transfers. A total of 8.07 mt was distributed in January.

WFP provided farming inputs to 10,454 smallholder farmers in Kalomo, Sioma and Shang'ombo districts to support them in recovering from the effects of the 2018/2019 drought. In the 2020/2021 farming season overall, WFP has assisted 29,212 smallholder farmers in five districts (Gwembe, Sioma, Shang'ombo, Kalomo and Monze), distributing drought-tolerant and nutrient-dense farming inputs including cowpeas, sorghum, orange maize and cassava cuttings.

## Operational Context

Landlocked and with a population of 17.8 million, Zambia achieved lower middle-income status in 2011 following years of impressive economic performance. Yet, more than half of its population still live below the poverty line. The deteriorating economy, coupled with the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, threaten government efforts to deliver social services, alleviate poverty, and achieve zero hunger.

In the last decade, the country has suffered from the impact of climate change, with frequent prolonged dry spells, 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. They are responsible for up to 90 percent of the food produced in Zambia, with women accounting for about 80 percent.

Under the Zambia Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2019–2024, WFP provides food assistance to vulnerable and food-insecure people, including on-demand logistics support during emergencies. WFP also supports integrated nutrition and smallholder farmer support in food-insecure areas, and helps strengthen the capacity of the Government to implement national programmes and systems that contribute to zero hunger and improved nutrition.

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: 17.8 million

2019 Human Development Index: 146 out of 189 countries

Income Level: Lower middle

Stunting: 35% of children aged 6–59 months

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Photo: WFP Zambia/Paul Mboshya - A refugee at the Mantapala Settlement displaying food items he bought after receiving cash from WFP

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
<b>142.0 m*</b>	<b>50.90 m</b>	<b>1.75 m</b>

\* WFP's USD 29.6 million budget revision was approved in September 2020, with COVID-19 response included and a fifth strategic outcome on service provision introduced.

### Strategic Result 01: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 01:** Crisis-affected people, including refugees can meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year.

**Focus Area:** Crisis response

**Activities:**

- Unconditional cash-based and food transfers.
- Supplementary feeding for targeted refugees.

### Strategic Result 02: End Malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 02:** Vulnerable people in Zambia have improved nutrition status in line with national targets by 2024.

**Focus Area:** Root causes

**Activities:**

- Provide technical support to government institutions and the private sector for the reduction of malnutrition and the scale up of high-impact nutrition interventions.

### Strategic Result 03: Smallholder Resilience

**Strategic Outcome 03:** Smallholder farmers in Zambia, especially women, have increased access to markets, enhanced resilience to climate shocks and diversified livelihoods by 2030.

**Focus Area:** Resilience Building

**Activities:**

- Promote climate-smart agriculture, crop diversification through access to finance, climate services, post-harvest management support and access to markets for smallholder farmers.

### Strategic Result 04: Capacity Strengthening

**Strategic Outcome 04:** Government institutions in Zambia have more efficient, effective and shock-responsive social protection systems that contribute to the achievement of SDG2.

**Focus area:** Root causes

**Activities:**

- Provide technical expertise and other services for strengthening the systems and capacities of government institutions and other partners in implementing and disaster social protection programmes and early warning preparedness and response activities.
- Provide technical support to the Government in strengthening systems and capacities of the structure for the HGSM programme.

### Strategic Result 05: Service Provision

**Strategic Outcome 05:** Provide on-demand service provision to the Government, private sector, development partners and United Nations agencies

**Focus area:** Crisis response

**Activities:**

- Provision of logistics and technical advisory support

WFP supported the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in training lead farmers and camp extension officers to effectively monitor and help smallholder farmers adopt conservation agricultural practices to optimise yields. Additionally, WFP supported the development of a sorghum production monitoring plan under the Sorghum Out-grower Scheme, which is jointly implemented by WFP and Zambian Breweries (ZB) in Gwembe and Pemba districts. Through this collaboration, WFP and ZB have engaged and provided inputs and technical support to 1,000 smallholder farmers to enhance sorghum production with a guaranteed market offered by the company.

WFP started piloting in three districts (Namwala, Monze and Kapiri-Mposhi) the redeveloped Virtual Farmers Market's (VFM), an e-commerce digital platform to enable farmers and buyers exchange market information and trade surplus commodities. Once fully deployed, the enhanced e-commerce market platform will increase smallholder farmers' linkages to sustainable markets.

To enhance nutrition education and promote vegetable production for diversified school meals, WFP supported the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) to finalize the setting up of three hydroponics gardens at three schools in Gwembe District. Moreover, WFP re-trained 12 hydroponics gardens focal points in four districts (Nyimba, Petauke, Katete and Lundazi) to enhance crop management and pest control.

As schools are resuming the 2021 school calendar, WFP assisted the MoGE in developing a tracking system to facilitate the monitoring of food deliveries to schools under the national Home-Grown School Meals programme. This system was set up while a web-based Food Tracking System developed in 2020 was being piloted in 10 schools in Mumbwa District before scaling up to additional 120 schools in 12 districts later in the year.

WFP, in collaboration with the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC), continued to implement nutrition activities in churches through trained religious leaders to raise awareness on healthy diets and promote the consumption of nutritious foods among communities. During the month, 378 congregants were reached with nutrition messages in Mumbwa and Petauke districts. In addition, using social media and the dedicated website, WFP and NFNC continued to promote the Good Food Logo – a front of pack certification mark for food products meeting set nutrition criteria that should enable consumers make better food choices.

### Donors

Donors to WFP Zambia in 2020 include Canada, European Commission, Germany, Green Climate Fund (GCF), Ireland, Private Donors, Sweden, Switzerland, UNICEF and the United States of America (in alphabetical order).