



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief September 2021



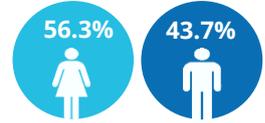
In Numbers

4.223 mt food distributed

US\$ 199,160 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 413,129 six-month (October 2021 – March 2022) net funding requirements

93,520 people assisted
in September 2021



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 live below the poverty line. The deteriorating economy, coupled with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, threatens 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.



Operational Updates

WFP continued to implement an integrated package of humanitarian and development interventions in Zambia, reaching 93,520 people in September. Among the assisted, WFP reached 17,704 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with food and cash assistance; 22,041 people through nutrition support interventions; and 53,775 smallholder farmers through early recovery and resilience strengthening interventions.

The number of DRC refugees and asylum seekers at the WFP-supported Mantapala Refugee Settlement continued to increase, reaching 18,000 people by the end of the month. The increases are due to new births, new arrivals entering Zambia through undesignated routes, and those returning from seeking alternative livelihood opportunities outside the settlement. In the last one year, the population has increased by 18 percent. The trend will likely lead to increased needs, which may surpass available resources.

Working with other nutrition partners, WFP continued to promote good nutrition for children below the age of 5 years as well as pregnant and lactating women and adolescents. In September, 21 cooking demonstrations were conducted in the three districts (Chisamba, Chibombo and Kapiri-Mposhi) to promote good cooking practices using locally available foods, reaching 45 pregnant women, 226 lactating mothers and 51 adolescents. In addition, 271 mothers took their children for malnutrition screening, with a total of 686 children screened during the month.

Strengthening resilience and economically empowering women remain among WFP's priorities in its Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024). As part of this, WFP continued to roll out trainings in post-harvest loss (PHL) management and savings for change (SfC). Seventeen district staff were trained in PHL management in Choma District, and 43 staff including community development assistants were trained in SfC model in Choma and Monze districts. The trained district staff cascaded the trainings in PHL management to 250 lead farmers, while 150 animators were trained in the SfC model in Choma District. Meanwhile, WFP facilitated the training of 421 smallholder farmers (160 men and 261 women) in food preservation and processing in Monze District. This was part

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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Country Strategic Plan (2019–2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
142.0 m	53.60 m	0.4 m

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: No one suffers from 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: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes

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: Food systems are sustainable

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: Developing countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

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

of efforts to enhance nutrition security among the smallholders by strengthening their capacities in processing and preserving foods to maintain nutrition content, prolong shelf-life, and make them available during the lean season.

Through the Zambia Agriculture Research Institute, WFP facilitated a training of trainers for 28 district technical staff of the Ministry of Agriculture district and cooperating partners to build their capacities in the production of drought-tolerant crops including cowpeas, groundnuts, sorghum, cassava and orange maize. The training was held from 29 September to 1 October 2021 in Livingstone, with staff drawn from 11 districts (Chikankata, Choma, Gwembe, Kaoma, Mazabuka, Mongu, Monze, Namwala, Pemba, Shangombo and Sioma). The trained staff will in turn lead the training of camp extension officers and farmers to enhance adoption of drought tolerant and nutrient dense crops among smallholder farmers for increased food and nutrition security in the face of climate change. During the training, three companies that produce and distribute crop seed created awareness on available drought tolerant crops.

WFP has continued to support the Ministry of General Education in implementing the national Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) programme. With technical support from WFP, the Ministry developed a diet diversification plan for the programme to enable schools to locally procure and provide nutritious meals to school children. The plan will be implemented in over 4,300 schools in 59 districts, with 1.6 million school children expected to benefit.

Monitoring

Using its Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) system, WFP continued to conduct market monitoring in four provinces (Copperbelt, Luapula, Lusaka and Southern), focusing on prices of key food commodities. The recent mVAM results revealed mixed trends for maize grain prices. For instance, between August and September 2021, prices of maize grain in Kafue and Livingstone districts reduced by 18 percent and 11 percent, while prices in Kawambwa and Chilanga rose by 14 percent and 12 percent, respectively. Moreover, prices of maize meal were trending downwards, with roller meal prices in Kalulushi and Nchelenge falling by 7 percent and 6 percent, respectively. The cost of essential food items such as salt, sugar, and cooking oil mostly remained unchanged. However, bean prices increased by 12 percent and 8 percent in Kalulushi and Kawambwa, respectively, while prices of beef, chicken, and fish increased by between 6 percent and 18 percent.

Donors

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