



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zambia Country Brief July 2020



Operational Context

Landlocked and with a population of 17.4 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: **17.4 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **143 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

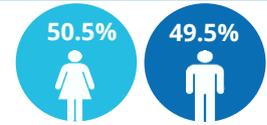
Stunting: **35% of children aged 6–59 months**

In Numbers

142.65 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 9.4 m six months (August 2020-January 2021) net funding requirements.

101,801 people assisted in July 2020



Operational Updates

On 28 July 2020, WFP started implementing its COVID-19 cash assistance for urban food insecure people, targeting 180,000 people residing in 50 disadvantaged urban and peri-urban areas of Lusaka and Kafue districts. As of 31 July, 87,705 vulnerable and food insecure people including refugees in 17,541 households had been reached. Each targeted household received ZMW 800 (USD 44) to cover half the value of a basic food basket for two months (August and September). To limit human-to-human contact in the wake of the raising number of COVID-19 cases, WFP distributed cash via mobile money services provided by a local mobile network provider and its cash agents. To promote the choice and consumption of nutritious foods among the targeted population, WFP, working with the Government and other cooperating partners, developed and disseminated nutrition messages and raised awareness around the usage of the provided cash through selected radio channels and short text messages.

During the reported month, WFP commenced a second rapid food security assessment in the urban districts of Livingstone and Kitwe districts, targeting 1,500 households, as part of preparations for the upcoming scale-up of the response. This followed the first assessment conducted in Lusaka and Kafue districts in June, which found over 190,000 food insecure people in the two districts.

In July, WFP expanded its cash assistance to refugees, targeting and reaching over 5,000 refugees, up from 1,500 people in the previous two months. WFP distributed over USD 38,000 (ZMW 692,045), with each refugee receiving ZMW 134 (about USD 7.4). This is the equivalent of the value of the food basket distributed to the remaining 9,000 refugees who received food in-kind during the same month. The scale-up is part of WFP plans to transition all the refugees from food to cash assistance by early 2021.

WFP, in collaboration with Mayfair Insurance, compensated over 5,300 smallholder farmers enrolled in the Weather Index Insurance programme, who had suffered losses following the early season dry spells experienced in the 2019/2020 farming season. Each smallholder farmer received an average pay-out of ZMW 162 (about USD 8.93) off a subsidised premium of ZMW 50 (about USD 2.75), with the total pay-out of about USD 57,000. The payments were done using mobile money services provided by MTN, a mobile network operator.

During the month, WFP provided financial support and technical assistance to the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (DMMU), the lead government body dealing

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Photo: WFP Zambia/Sophie Smeulders

Cash assistance at a mobile money booth as part of WFP's COVID-19 response.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirement (in USD)
112 m*	46.30 m	9.4 m

*WFP is undertaking a USD 22 million budget revision for its COVID-19 response in Zambia.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: 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 2: End Malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: 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 3: Smallholder Resilience

Strategic Outcome 3: 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 small holder farmers.

Strategic Result 4: Capacity Strengthening

Strategic Outcome 4: Government institutions in Zambia have more efficient, effective and shock-responsive social protection systems that contribute to the achievement of SDG 2.

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.

with emergency preparedness and response, in conducting the 2020 in-depth vulnerability and needs assessment under the Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZVAC). Annually, the Government conducts vulnerability and needs assessments to analyze the impacts of dry spells, floods, pest

infestation and other natural hazards on the food security sector and to inform decisions on appropriate actions. The assessment was conducted in 65 districts, and WFP support included designing the assessment, data collection, the ongoing data analysis, report writing and technical review.

In July, WFP launched a two-year early recovery and resilience programme, targeting over 104,000 smallholder farmers in five (Gwembe, Kalomo, Monze, Shang'ombo and Sioma) of the 58 districts affected by the 2018/2019 drought. The intervention is aimed at helping smallholder farmers to recover from the effects of the worst drought experienced in Zambia and to enhance their ability to withstand future climate shocks. In addition, the intervention targets some 33,300 school children who will receive school meals with food locally procured from smallholder farmers. As part of preparatory activities, WFP conducted scoping missions in the targeted districts to introduce the programme to district stakeholders, identify potential partners (both private sector and NGO partners), identify entry points, examine the value chains of focus, and assess knowledge gaps.

During the month, the Government through the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) launched the first ever national Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) strategy, developed with technical support from WFP, aimed at transforming the HGSM programme into a sustainable safety net that contributes to children's nutrition and education, while providing a market for smallholder farmers. The strategy includes a decentralised procurement strategy, designed to empower schools and their communities to manage their own procurement, while stimulating demand for locally produced food.

WFP continued to support the Government in nutrition sensitive programming by coordinating nutrition activities in 12 districts and training dedicated government staff. During the month, WFP facilitated a nutrition education Training of Trainers (ToT) for 48 staff from the ministries of general education and agriculture, and cooperating partners in the targeted districts as part of nutrition mainstreaming. The trained staff will cascade the training at district and camp levels. In addition, as part of the Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) activities, WFP, working with the National Food and Nutrition Commission, disseminated nutrition SBCC messages to the targeted districts, targeting pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls and smallholder farmers, using trained community volunteers.

Monitoring

Results of the outcome monitoring exercise conducted in June at the refugee settlement revealed improved food security among majority of the refugee households in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the first quarter. Importantly, it was established that majority of the households receiving cash assistance had better food security outcomes than those on in-kind food assistance, with 99 percent of the cash-assisted households frequently consuming diversified diets compared to 82 percent of those on in-kind assistance.

Donors

Donors to WFP Zambia in 2020 include Canada, Germany, Green Climate Fund (GCF), Ireland, Italy, Private Donors, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, UNICEF and the United States of America (in alphabetical order). Additional support has been provided by UN CERF.