



WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME ZAMBIA

2020 Annual Country Report Highlights



PEOPLE ASSISTED
1,010,701



FOOD DISTRIBUTED
6,644 mt



CASH TRANSFERRED
USD 4,990,190

SUPPORTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE ESCAPE ROCK BOTTOM DURING THE PANDEMIC

Ms. Mwale, a mother of four, has been a widow for the last 12 years. After losing her brother, she took on his two children as well. Before the COVID pandemic, she used to travel to Mwemeshi every day – a bustling town 10km away from Lusaka where fish are traded – to sell sardines in the local market.

"I was making around ZMW 700 a month, but the coronavirus ruined everything. I lost my small income as I fear travelling to Mwemeshi in case I catch the virus". To make some money, Joyce set up an alternative business making floor polish. But this only brings her around ZMW 50 a month.

"Life isn't easy for me – this isn't enough money to survive on. I must pay school fees and find food for six children on my own," Ms. Mwale says. WFP's cash payment of ZMW 2,400 - enough to meet half her family's food and nutrition needs for six months during the onset of the pandemic - came at a vital time when her family hit rock bottom.

"I was so happy when I received a text message that said that I had received a voucher for cash as I desperately needed help," she says. "We had no food left and I was preparing to sell my household furniture to get some cash for food." With the cash received from WFP, she could finally buy food for her children and went straight to the market to buy a bag of mielie meal, fish, beans and vegetables.

Ms. Mwale's hope for the future is that coronavirus will end and she can resume with her business.

CONTRIBUTIONS

USD 39.88 million

[Full Zambia Annual Report](#)

COVID-19 IMPACT AND ADAPTATION



Despite Zambia's lower middle-income status, over half its population of 17.8 million people lives below the poverty line. A deteriorating economy, high debt burden and a weakening local currency aggravated by the COVID-19 outbreak, is undermining the ability of the Government to deliver social services and invest in programmes that alleviate poverty and achieve zero hunger. At the same time, the impact of the pandemic, which resulted in loss of income and high food prices, further threatened the livelihoods and food security of the most vulnerable.



WFP continued to respond as a strategic partner to the Government for the realisation of zero hunger, amidst the challenging context of COVID-19. Key objectives included: the provision of food assistance to vulnerable populations to improve their nutritional status; boosting the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and communities in food insecure areas; and technical assistance and service provision to the Government, including to strengthen systems to implement national social protection programmes.

CROSS-CUTTING RESULTS



Although Zambia has demonstrated commitment towards improving gender equality, the country has not significantly progressed in reducing gender gaps. The country continued to record higher cost of living and deteriorating living standards, with women – especially in peri-urban and rural areas – mostly affected by food insecurity and gender-based violence, especially with the outbreak of COVID-19.



The effects of climate change are the main environmental issues Zambia faces. Climate variability has resulted in high temperatures, changes in rainfall patterns and increased frequency of extreme events such as droughts and floods. Additionally, diseases and pest infestations are causing environmental degradation and undermining food systems by interfering with agricultural production. One of its efforts to combat the impacts of climate change, WFP installed 34 hydroponics school gardens in selected schools. Besides providing needed micro-nutrients, the gardens allow children to acquire knowledge and skills in gardening and caring for the environment.

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Strategic outcome 1: Crisis-affected people in Zambia, including refugees, can meet their basic food and nutrition needs all year round



659,056 people reached with food assistance



316,565 people affected by COVID-19 received cash transfers



88% refugees frequently consumed diverse diets

Strategic outcome 2: Vulnerable people in Zambia have improved nutritional status in line with national targets, by 2024



Supported the Government to develop and launch the healthy diets campaign to increase awareness



47,269 pregnant and lactating women and girls and carers reached with nutrition messaging



10,531 pregnant and lactating women and girls trained in food processing and preservation

Strategic outcome 3: Smallholder farmers in Zambia, especially women, have increased access to markets, enhanced resilience to climate shocks and diversified livelihoods by 2030



63,387 smallholder farmers trained in conservation agriculture practices



21,829 smallholder farmers sold 23,628 mt of produce for USD 3.34 million



7,016 smallholder farmers affected by early season dry spells received insurance payouts valued at USD 57,320

Strategic outcome 4: Government institutions in Zambia have more efficient, effective, and shock-responsive social protection systems to contribute to SDG2



24,327 schoolchildren benefitted from hydroponic gardens



WFP supported the development of a national home-grown school meals strategy



WFP supported the Government in conducting the 2020 indepth vulnerability and needs assessment

Strategic outcome 5: Government institutions in Zambia and their partners have more efficient, effective, and shock-responsive social protection systems to contribute to SDG2

WFP delivered service provision to the United Nations Population Fund for storage and handling of non-food items and common premises to the International Fund for Agricultural Development. WFP undertook a market survey to increase current storage capacity (from 6,000 mt up to 24,000 mt), secured on-demand specialised storage facilities for medical-related products and other sensitive relief items and started boosting its logistics capacity.

PARTNERS

ABInBev/Zambian Breweries and other private sector players, European Commission, Germany, Government of Zambia, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Sweden, Switzerland, UNICEF, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United States of America.

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