

COUNTRY STRATEGY

WFP in Zambia operates through a Country Programme supporting the government's priorities to reach the hunger targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

In 2015, WFP aimed to assist over one million people in an effort to preserve livelihoods, safeguard the nutritional status of vulnerable groups, and respond to drought and floods. WFP also works to strengthen government and private sector capacity to implement sustainable solutions to nutrition and hunger deficiencies. Zambia is a UN "Delivering as One" country and operates within the framework of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2011-2015).

WFP has been present in Zambia since 1967.



Newly installed gas cookers at Kamphambe School in Katete are fueled by methane gas from a biogas digester filled with cow dung. Photo © WFP/Evin Joyce

OPERATIONS

	Project Duration	Planned number of people	Total requirements (in USD)	Total received (in USD)	Total Funded (%)	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*	Top 5 Donors
DEV 200157: Country Programme - Zambia	May 11 - Dec 15	1,385,641	57,715,813	32,822,829	57%	-	Republic of Zambia, Canada, USA, Private donors, Multilaterals, EDMF

*January – June 2016

Summary of WFP Assistance: WFP's Country Programme seeks to 1) improve safety nets by providing in-kind food and technical assistance to enhance government programmes and advocacy to help scale up nutritional support for all Zambians, with particular attention to nutritionally vulnerable groups; 2) improve the government's preparedness to respond to and mitigate disasters as a way of reducing vulnerability and preserving livelihoods; and 3) expand market opportunities for smallholder farmers by leveraging local food procurement for social protection programmes. WFP's Country Programme is aligned with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as well as the Government's Sixth National Development Plan through a common focus on improving nutrition, education, sustainable agriculture, and social protection.

With WFP support, Zambia is transitioning its school feeding programme to a national Home-Grown School Feeding (HGSF) model, which is seen by government and other actors as a catalyst for development in rural areas. The programme has a goal of reaching 1 million school children by the end of 2015. The government provides all cereals and covers secondary transport costs, while WFP supplements this with fortified vegetable oil and pulses procured locally from smallholder farmers through its Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative. WFP is also ensuring government ownership of the programme by providing technical assistance and management support. WFP in Zambia has been working with the WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil to support the Zambian government's efforts to transition into a multi-sectoral HGSF programme that is fully integrated into the Education Sector Policy. WFP has also joined efforts with other UN agencies to develop a Joint Social Protection Project, in which the HGSF programme will be a component.

WFP has also set goals to enhance Zambia's agricultural sector. For example, WFP has provided technical support to the Zambia Food Reserve Agency in strategic grain supply chain management, assurance of quality control and information management systems. Through the Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative, WFP supports smallholder farmers/farmer organisations to increase production, access markets, and trade quality commodities.

WFP continues to support the government in developing national contingency plans within its National Disaster Risk Management Framework. WFP provides technical support to the government in implementing its national Social Cash Transfer programme by helping procure and integrate a payment provider, develop a registration system, and roll out a mobile based data collection system.

WFP takes into account the unique contexts of Zambia and ensures that the needs of both men and women are met. All monitoring tools track progress made by both genders, including access to resources and the decision making process for use of household resources. Under P4P, and in line with WFP's gender mainstreaming goals, WFP provides women with access to labour-saving technology, imparts business skills, and implements financial literacy and capacity building activities.

As part of the UN "Delivering as One" approach, WFP is actively engaged in discussions with the government and other UN agencies to develop a UN Partnership Framework, which will primarily focus on capacity building to assist the government in achieving its national development goals.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

ACHIEVEMENTS	ISSUES/CHALLENGES
<p>SUN Business Network: SUN Business Network hosted a dinner to mark its one year anniversary and celebrated achievements in bringing the private sector into nutrition. The event attracted 70 stakeholders, most of which were from the private sector. South African author Leonie Joubert delivered the keynote presentation for the evening, which included examples of how the private sector can contribute to improved nutrition.</p> <p>P4P: The Chimpili warehouse and agribusiness centre, an area that can store 500 mts of food, was officially opened in Chimpili district. The agribusiness was funded by the German Cooperation Based on the Chimpili cooperative's initial success of increasing production and group marketing. This has helped the cooperative reduce their post-harvest losses and adequately store their harvest for sale later in the season when prices increase.</p> <p>HGSF: In order to strengthen the Ministry of Education's capacity to track and report on the HGSF programme objectives, WFP's Zambia Country Office, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, has piloted the use of mobile technology using Data Winners Open Data Kit (ODK). The software allows for the collection and transmission of multivariable data using SMS, Mobile Application and Web. The Country Office has approached the Ministry to assign an officer who will ensure that the lessons learnt from the project are integrated in the overall ministry data management system</p> <p>Social Protection: The UN joint Support programme proposal has been finalized and signed with the donors. WFP will receive funding of USD 2 million over a three year period (2016 to 2018) for implementation of technical assistance to the Government of Zambia.</p> <p>SUN Mumbwa Project: 1,600 beneficiaries were identified for the programme; the beneficiaries were targeted through their visits to health care centres. Infant and Young Child Nutrition (IYCN) trainings involving 70 community health workers were conducted. The Community Health Workers (CHWs) will support the IYCN activities including sensitization and counselling of women. The training follows the national guidelines and protocols for IYCN. The training of volunteers is meant to equip them to be able to carry out sessions with households on infant and young child feeding.</p>	<p>El Nino: The Government, through the Zambian Vulnerability Assessment Committee, has developed a 2015/16 National Contingency Plan following the release of the 2015/16 seasonal rainfall forecast. The forecast showed a high likelihood of experiencing a strong El Nino leading to frequent occurrence of prolonged dry spells in the southern half of the Country. About 55 districts are likely to be adversely affected with agriculture, energy and water being the most affected sectors. It is expected that the number of food insecure households will double to 266,000 households.</p>

PARTNERSHIPS

WFP has formed a strong partnership with a number of government ministries and institutions, providing technical support, capacity building and co-implementing. WFP works with the Ministries of Education, Agriculture, Finance and Community Development. WFP partners with the National Food and Nutrition Commission and the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit.

WFP seeks partnerships that will enhance knowledge of 'protection programme management' and nutrition initiatives. DiMagi, Technoserve, IDinsight, GAIN, CARE and CSO-SUN, amongst others, have been key partners in developing the new social cash transfer registration system and SUN Business Network. WFP partnered with the Adventist Development and Relief Agency for value chain improvement and Heifer International to empower women and better agricultural production.

WFP is an active contributor to the UN "Delivering as One" approach in Zambia. WFP has helped form a Rome Based Agencies (WFP, FAO, and IFAD) technical working group on food security, as well as a UN technical working group on nutrition, to ensure a cohesive approach in tackling nutritional issues. WFP is also Chair of the Cooperating Partners' Group on Nutrition — a forum through which the UN, bilateral, and multilateral donors share information on nutrition. DFID, SIDA, Irish Aid, the Finnish Embassy, EU and USAID have been primary donors and consultative partners in 2014.

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

Zambia is a low middle income country with an estimated population of 14 million and an annual population growth rate of 2.8 percent. It ranks 139 out of 188 countries on the 2015 UNDP Human Development Report. The country has experienced a GDP growth rate above 6 percent over the past decade, largely attributed to favourable performance in the mining, construction, manufacturing, transport, and communication sectors. The economy has further benefitted from high levels of foreign direct investment and the growth of non-traditional exports. The government's financial capacity to manage its developmental agenda has equally improved. Despite positive economic gains in recent years, limited policy enforcement, poor management and low accountability remain persistent problems. Although government has invested in domestic and regional infrastructure, very low population density and challenges in service delivery render the cost of doing business and delivering strong multi-sectoral development support relatively high compared to the rest of the region. This has limited Zambia's export potential and development of cost-efficient, sustainable systems for agricultural products. Poverty levels are generally high, with rural areas accounting for the larger proportion at 57 percent. Zambia's Gini coefficient stands at 0.65, making it one of the most unequal countries in the world.

