



Poor and erratic rainfall coupled with crop and livestock losses continue to compromise the food security of Zambia. Ongoing conflict in the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has forced refugees—many of whom face acute food insecurity—to seek shelter and assistance in the country.

SITUATION

- Approximately 2.3 million people in Zambia are experiencing Crisis (IPC 3) or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the October-to-March lean season—the period of the year when food is scarcest—according to the Zambia Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZVAC). Poor rainfall in the southern half of Zambia in 2018/2019 contributed to crop and cattle losses. These losses were compounded by flash floods in January 2020 that also damaged transportation infrastructure.
- Conflict and insecurity in the DRC contributed to a sudden influx of Congolese refugees into Zambia in 2017. As of January 2020, more than 51,000 Congolese refugees were sheltering in Zambia, including approximately 6,500 refugees who arrived since the beginning of 2019, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- Many Congolese refugees traveled long distances to reach Zambia, arriving in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and primarily sheltering in camps and transit centers in the country’s Luapula and North Western provinces. Refugees in Luapula lack access to livelihood opportunities, markets, and arable land for farming, making it difficult for vulnerable households to buy or grow enough food.

*The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal (IPC 1) to Famine (IPC 5).



FOOD FOR PEACE CONTRIBUTIONS		
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS PER FISCAL YEAR (FY)		
	U.S. DOLLARS	METRIC TONS (MT)*
FY 2020	\$3,388,530	2,380 MT
FY 2019	\$610,000	465 MT
FY 2018	\$610,000	804 MT

*Metric tonnage does not reflect funding for vouchers or cash transfers

RESPONSE

- USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP) partners with the UN World Food Program (WFP) to provide vulnerable, food-insecure populations in southern and western Zambia in-kind food distributions during the lean season.
- In FY 2019, WFP provided locally and regionally procured emergency food assistance to approximately 13,500 refugees sheltering in Luapula’s Mantapala refugee camp.
- Nearly 90 percent of FFP’s contribution to WFP in FY 2019 supported the procurement of food directly from Zambian communities near Mantapala. Purchasing food products in the areas hosting refugees supported local Zambian farmers, bolstered local markets, and increased the speed of food assistance delivery.



Photo: Jackie, a Congolese refugee living in Zambia’s Luapula Province, displays a biometric registration card that gives her and her grandchildren access to emergency food assistance, including maize meal, pulses, vegetable oil, sugar, and iodized salt.