

CONTEXT

- Zambia is susceptible to recurrent climatic and other natural shocks—including localized dry spells, floods, and pest infestations—that disrupt harvests and limit the availability of grazing land for livestock, resulting in reduced food production and higher food prices. In addition, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and related COVID-19 mitigation measures have reduced livelihood opportunities and decreased households' purchasing power and access to food, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).¹
- Despite above-average harvests in 2021, localized flooding and pest infestations—including African migratory locust and fall armyworm outbreaks—continue to threaten the livelihoods of Zambia's 1.5 million smallholder farmers, who produce a large proportion of domestic food supplies, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). An estimated 1.2 million people—approximately 10 percent of Zambia's population—likely experienced high levels of acute food insecurity between July and September, according to an August IPC analysis. While projected average rainfall during the November-to-March rainy season will likely prevent a significant deterioration in countrywide food security conditions, nearly 1.6 million people will face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse acute food insecurity conditions during Zambia's October-to-March lean season, when food is scarcest.
- More than 78,000 refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Somalia, and Rwanda are currently sheltering in refugee settlements and urban areas throughout Zambia, including approximately 17,000 individuals residing at the Mantapala settlement in Luapula Province's Nchelenge District, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports. Approximately 90 percent of households in Mantapala remain fully dependent on humanitarian assistance, according to a May assessment by UNHCR and WFP.



ASSISTANCE

- USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supports WFP in providing emergency food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable households in Zambia. With nearly \$3.1 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 support from USAID/BHA, WFP distributed nearly 2,400 metric tons (MT) of yellow split peas to vulnerable households located throughout 10 drought- and flood-affected districts in Zambia's eastern, southern, and western provinces between May 2020 and February 2021. In addition, with USAID/BHA assistance, WFP also provided

¹ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

approximately 140 MT of yellow split peas to supplement food assistance to nearly 14,000 refugees in Mantapala between June and December 2020, the UN agency reports.

- In partnership with WFP, USAID/BHA also provided \$610,000 in FY 2021 funding for monthly unconditional cash transfers to nearly 17,000 refugees sheltering in Mantapala to improve their food and nutritional security. The assistance increases refugees' access to local markets, promoting better relations between refugees and host communities in Mantapala, according to WFP.



Refugees receiving food rations at Mantapala Refugee Settlement.
Photo credit: WFP/Paul Mboshya

USAID/BHA Funding in Zambia ²			
	Emergency ³	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2020	\$3,150,324	-	\$3,150,324
FY 2021	\$610,000	-	\$610,000

² Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2021. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

³ Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.