

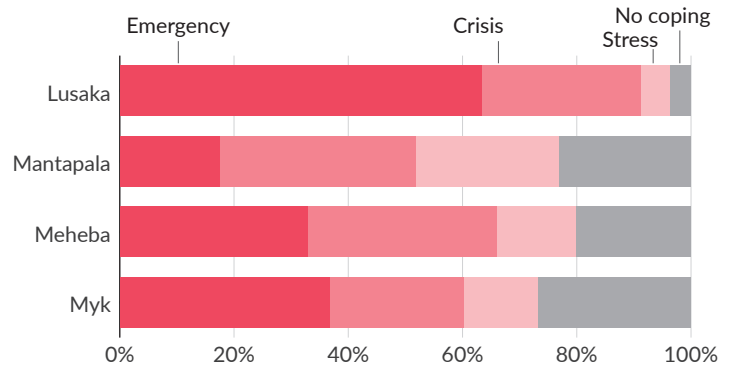
In order to determine the ways in which the current drought in Zambia has been impacting refugees, UNHCR conducted a protection risk assessment among 3,914 refugee households.

Amongst other parameters, the assessment examined the impact of the drought on food security and resulting protection risks.

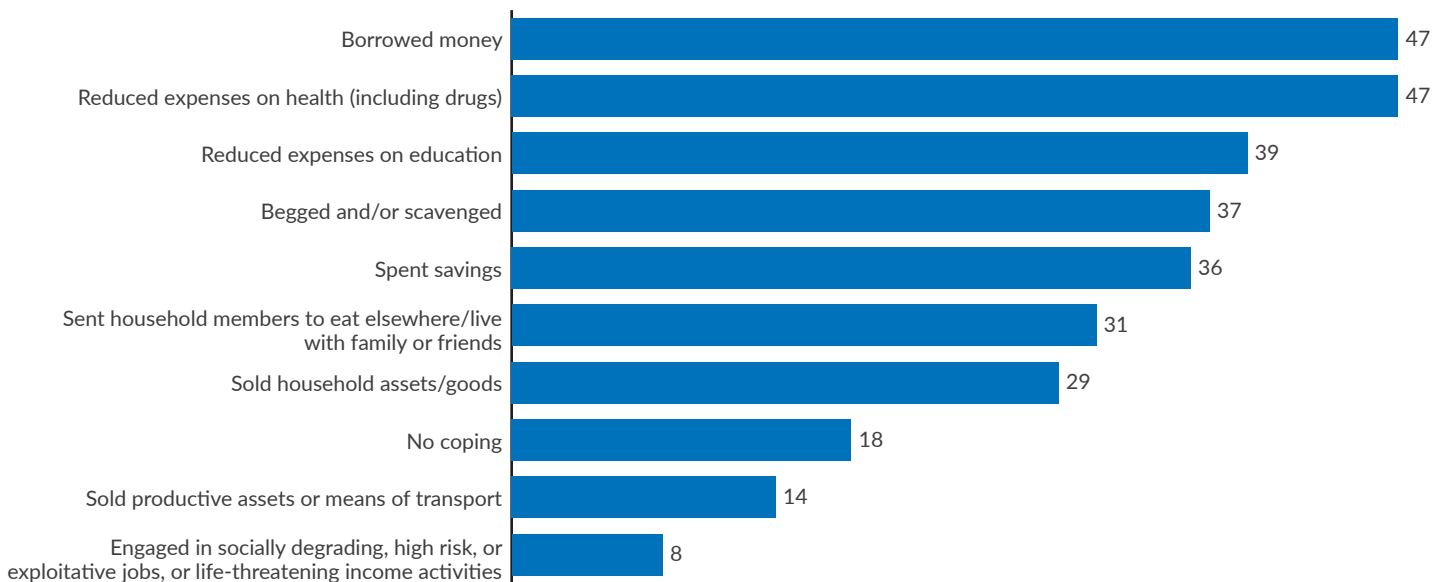
Analysis of the results of the indicators measuring Livelihood Coping Strategies (LCS)¹ shows that 84% of the interviewed households reported having relied on livelihood coping strategies in the previous month, or having exhausted them within the last 12 months, due to lack of food or money to buy it.

Borrowing money (47%), reducing expenditure on health (47%) and on education (39%) are the three strategies applied most frequently by households. Further, a high percentage of households have spent their savings to meet essential needs (36%) and/or begged or scavenged to meet those needs (37%).

Proportion of households relying on livelihood coping strategies to meet essential needs – by Locations and Levels of stress



Percentage of households using negative coping mechanism to meet essential needs



Comparison between households in the different locations shows a higher proportion of those living in Lusaka relying on emergency coping strategies (67%) due to lack of food or money to buy it. This may be due to an increase in cost of living, limited work opportunities and deteriorated living conditions.

Most of the households reported having reduced both the number of daily meals and food portions, every day during the previous week.

Number of days with reduced number of meals eaten



Number of days with limited portion size of meals



Livelihood Challenges

The main challenge to improving livelihoods is reportedly lack of capital (36%), followed by limited access to agriculture inputs or land (27%). Meanwhile, 5% of the households surveyed perceive that legal barriers to move out of refugee settlements affect their livelihood capacity and 5% consider the lack of right skills as an impediment. This is in line with the education levels of the households surveyed, as recorded within the assessment, and with their main source of income - that is unskilled labour.

¹The Livelihood Coping Strategies – Food Security (LCS-FS) is a set of indicators used to understand households' medium and longer-term coping capacity in response to lack of food or money to buy food, and their ability to overcome challenges in the future - facing situations that present different levels of severity or stress (Emergency; Crisis; No Coping Stress). The indicators are derived from a series of questions regarding the households' experiences with livelihood stress and asset depletion to cope with food shortages. Source: WFP, 2021. Source: UNHCR