



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief September 2018



Operational Context

Over the last decade, Zimbabwe has experienced a number of unprecedented economic, environmental and political shocks and stressors, contributing to a 2017 Global Hunger Index classification as 'serious.' 62.6 percent of Zimbabweans live below the poverty line. Consecutive poor agricultural seasons have further undermined the agricultural sector, with dire consequences for a population in which 80 percent of people derive a significant proportion of their livelihoods from rain-fed agriculture and livestock production. Micronutrient deficiencies are prevalent, including a 66 percent prevalence of anaemia among children of ages 6 to 8 months, largely driven by poor dietary diversity.

Working through a Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021) jointly with the Government of Zimbabwe and partners, while preserving its humanitarian response capacity, WFP is promoting a shift towards resilience-building efforts, which includes emphasis on reducing stunting, strengthening social protection systems, and empowering smallholder farmers. WFP has been present in Zimbabwe since 2002.



Population: **15.6 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **156 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **26.2% of children between 6-59 months**

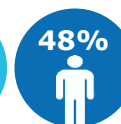
In Numbers

780.5 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$383,813 cash-based transfers made

US\$73.5 m six months (November 2018 to April 2019) net funding requirements, representing 77% of total

66,444 people assisted
in SEPTEMBER 2018



Operational Updates

- Following the declaration of a cholera outbreak and appeal for support from local and international partners to provide immediate life-saving assistance and support to control the outbreak by the Government of Zimbabwe, WFP has – working in partnership with other UN agencies and the Government – developed a response plan to provide nutritional support at the cholera treatment centres. WFP's plan focuses on providing food to cholera patients and suspected cases who are admitted in the cholera treatment centres, as well as to the medical staff.
- Preparations for the first distributions in October under the Lean Season Assistance (LSA) programme progressed well, with contractual obligations finalised for the first districts to receive assistance. With a plan to assist 1,135,000 people in 30 districts, WFP will utilise a suite of modalities that includes in-kind assistance and cash-based transfers as part of efforts to provide lifesaving assistance and stimulate local markets.
- September distributions at Tongogara Refugee Camp were conducted successfully, assisting 12,323 people. A total of US\$151,697 was distributed to 11,669 registered refugees, with 404 new arrivals receiving in-kind assistance consisting of cereals, pulses and veg oil.
- As part of efforts to support smallholder farmers in the country, with a target to procure 1,200 mt of locally produced sorghum through smallholder competitive tendering, to date WFP has procured 65 mt from smallholder farmers, whilst an identified contract will deliver 833 mt, bringing the total to 898 mt. Deliveries will continue to come through in October though targets may be affected by the recent spike in prices prompting smallholder farmers to demand more for their crop, as well as the increased retention of grains by farmers informed by early warning systems amid concerns that the coming season might be poor due the likelihood of an El Nino event.
- Under the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative, following the completion of the weather index insurance training and registrations, SNV commenced other financial education trainings focusing on promotion of savings and farming as a business. Additionally, 10 demo plots and hosts were selected for the demonstration of benefits of using appropriate seed varieties and mechanized conservation agricultural in partnership with CIMMYT.

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
272.3 m	81.1 m	73.5 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome #1: Food-insecure people, including refugees, in the most affected districts are enabled to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements during severe seasonal shocks or other disruptions

Activities:

- **Activity 1.1:** Provide cash and/or food transfers to the most vulnerable households affected by seasonal food shortages.
- **Activity 1.2:** Provide unconditional cash and/or food transfers and livelihood support for refugees in camps

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome #2: Children in prioritized districts have stunting rate trends in line with the achievement of national and global targets by 2025

Activities:

- **Activity 2.1:** Build evidence for nutrition advocacy, policy direction and programme decision-making
- **Activity 2.2:** Support the Government's nutrition programming at the national and sub-national levels

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

Strategic Outcome #3: Smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe have increased access to well-functioning agricultural markets by 2030

Activities:

- **Activity 3.1:** Support the development of an efficient local food marketing and procurement mechanism
- **Activity 3.2:** Enable farmer organizations to aggregate and market surplus production

Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome #4: Food-insecure rural households and smallholder farmers achieve food security and resilience to repeated exposure to multiple shocks and stressors

Activities:

- **Activity 4.1:** Support the creation and rehabilitation of assets for sustainable food and nutrition security
- **Activity 4.2:** Enhance the capacity of prioritized districts to plan and manage resilience building

Strategic Result 5: Developing Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome #5: The social protection system ensures that chronically vulnerable populations throughout the country are able to meet their basic needs all year round

Activities:

- **Activity 5.1:** Provide analytical expertise to support the evidence-based planning and management of context-specific solutions and responses
- **Activity 5.2:** Support innovative risk management, insurance and financing mechanisms
- **Activity 5.3:** Support the consolidation, administration and implementation of social transfer programmes under the national social protection system
- **Activity 5.4:** Support re-establishment of the national school meals programme

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve SDGs – SDG Target 17.16

Strategic Outcome #6: Partners in Zimbabwe are reliably supporting world-class, cost-effective and efficient supply chain services

Activities:

- **Activity 6.1:** Provide logistics and procurement expertise and services.

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- With support from DSM (a global science-based company active in health, nutrition and materials), WFP in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) carried out inception meetings in Mashonaland Central, Manicaland and Masvingo with government, media and local NGOs aimed at raising awareness and understanding of fortified foods and nutrition and the benefits of fortification in curbing malnutrition.
- Under the support to Maternity Waiting Homes – wherein WFP in partnership with UNFPA and MoHCC is providing food assistance to women waiting to give birth – WFP in September assisted 2,201 women. The food assistance facilitates an opportunity for these women to access health services during, at and immediately after delivery in order to support safe delivery.
- Work on the creation and rehabilitation of assets under the Food Assistance for Assets programme is progressing well in all 11 districts. Works are scheduled to be completed by 15 November, with a total of 23 assets being completed by that timeline. In September, WFP provided food assistance to 51,920 people under the programme.

Monitoring

- Activity implementation of food assistance for assets (FFA) projects was conducted to assess the progress made towards asset creation and rehabilitation activities. Community action plans were in place for 95.7 percent of the assets monitored. The currently identified projects were in line with the priorities identified in the community action plans. At all sites, community members fully participated in the selection of projects.
- 91.3 percent of the sites had work schedules detailing the progress made towards the completion of assets. Based on the work schedules, 17.6 percent of the projects were on ahead of schedule and already complete, while 5.9 percent of the assets were ahead of schedule though incomplete. 53 percent of the assets were right on schedule, but incomplete. Only 23.5 percent of the assets were behind schedule mainly due to the late or non-delivery of non-food items. Continuous monitoring will be undertaken to check on the status of project implementation as the FFA activities near their final stages and the end of the FFA implementation cycle.
- Relevant documentation was also maintained at all the project sites and these were related to work norms, project schedule, work registers, code of conduct, land agreements and social records. Gender parity was achieved as women constituted 54 percent of the committee members. Male and female headed households, at all sites, have equal opportunity to benefit directly from the created assets. The location of the project sites was also considered safe for women.

Challenges

- Recent price increases experienced across the country have resulted in increased operational costs related to increased costs of procurement of services. Any further increases will have a negative impact on those receiving assistance through cash-based assistance. WFP is monitoring the situation closely to ensure that people assisted access their rightful entitlements.

Donors

Australia, Canada, China, DSM, ECHO, France, Japan, Japan Association for WFP, the Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, UN Central Emergency Fund, United States of America, Zimbabwe.