



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief October 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 70 percent prevalence of iron deficiency among children under the age of five, 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**

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Photo: WFP/Tatenda Macheka. Aquiline Chitungo collects nutritional support for her young daughter in Mutasa district.

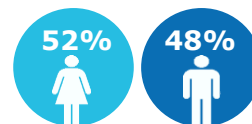
In Numbers

2,851 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$248,820 cash-based transfers made

US\$74.5 m six months (December 2018–May 2019) net funding requirements, representing 82% of total

256,889 people assisted
in October 2018



Operational Updates

- The 2018/19 Lean Season Assistance (LSA) programme cycle commenced in October, providing assistance to 184,088 people in 10 priority districts through in-kind assistance. WFP plans to gradually scale up the response to reach up to 1.1 million people during the peak of the lean season from January through March 2019, subject to resource availability. The 2018/19 LSA cycle will be implemented together with complementary activities geared to support the assisted communities through resilience building activities.
- WFP had initially planned to provide both cash-based transfers and in-kind assistance, but due to the volatility in prices and limited availability of basic commodities on the market experienced from October 2018, WFP provided in-kind assistance to all the people assisted during the October cycle, whilst it continues to monitor markets and be guided accordingly on the re-introduction of cash-based transfers.
- In October, 12,517 refugees residing in Tongogara Refugee Camp were assisted with food assistance. A total of USD 156,624 was distributed at the camp through cash-in-transit to 12,048 refugees with an additional 469 new arrivals at the camp receiving in-kind assistance that consisted of cereals, pulses and veg oil.
- The outlook for the 2018/19 agricultural season remains a concern, with normal to below-normal rainfall projected, and with a 70% probability of an El Niño phenomenon occurring in the region. The rainy season had not yet started at the end of October. It is anticipated that the number of vulnerable people will increase above what was initially projected under the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) exercise in May, compounded by the current economic situation.
- WFP supported a Community Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) training of facilitators in Bulilima and Mangwe. The training led to the development of CBPP ward rollout plans, with consultations expected to start in November.
- Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) reviews were also undertaken for Hwange and Tsholotsho districts. The reviews sought to enhance the relevance of the SLP and guide resilience-building initiatives for the districts.

- **Activity 5.4:** Support re-establishment of the national school programme

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
272.3 m	100m	74.5m

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

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

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- WFP together with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education participated in the 20th edition of the Global Child Nutrition Forum under the theme 'National School Meal Programs for Food and Nutrition Security and Multiple Social Benefits'. The forum recognised school feeding is a vital cross-cutting agenda contributing to achieving countries' socioeconomic Sustainable Development Goals. High level political will, inter-ministerial integration, nutrition-sensitive programming, south-south cooperation, private public partnerships and existence of legal frameworks were recognised as key areas of focus.

Monitoring

- WFP, PLAN Zimbabwe, UN Women and UNICEF with support from Nutrition Action Zimbabwe jointly conducted a Gender Equality and Inclusion pilot study to review the extent to which ongoing WFP programming is gender transformative, to generate lessons learnt, document good practices and recommend appropriate measurement of gender outcomes. Information was collected through focus group discussions and key informant interviews in October. Data coding and analysis is ongoing and report writing will be concluded this month.

Challenges

- Zimbabwe has over the past month faced an economic shock demonstrated by market volatility resulting in sharp price increases. For some key food commodities, such as vegetable oil, the prices increased three or even fourfold within one week, whilst fuel shortages were also experienced. Based on the situation in early October, WFP shifted the delivery mechanism for October, the first month of LSA, to in-kind in all districts as a precautionary measure to safeguard the transfer value. As the situation stabilises, WFP will monitor markets and resume a mix of in-kind and cash based food transfers from November.

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.