



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief November 2018



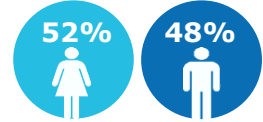
In Numbers

853 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$2m cash-based transfers made

US\$66m six months (January–June 2019) net funding requirements, representing 79% of total

284,148 people assisted in November 2018



Operational Context

Over the last decade, Zimbabwe has experienced a number of unprecedented economic, environmental and political shocks and stressors, contributing to a 2018 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**

Operational Updates

- The 2018/19 Lean Season Assistance (LSA) cycle, guided by the findings of the 2018 ZimVAC Assessment, continued in its second month in the same 10 districts with one more (Tsholotsho) coming on board in November, bringing the total to 11 districts. WFP is providing cash-in-transit (physical transfer of banknotes) and in-kind food assistance to maintain the humanitarian value of the food basket, to avoid erosion of value currently being experienced with mobile money transfers.
- The 2018 cycle of Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) was finalised in November after creating and rehabilitating 23 assets that included weir dams, nutrition gardens, dip tanks amongst others. As part of the multi-year approach, partners will continue to support FFA participants with focus on developing household assets and improving productivity on household agricultural plots. This is done through additional training on soil water conservation techniques, promotion of small grains production, and construction of keyhole gardens at homesteads.
- The support to refugees is facing an imminent pipeline break from December 2018 due to inadequate funding. Failure to access timely resources will negatively impact the lives of 12,655 refugees currently residing at Tongogara Refugee Camp who mainly rely on this support for their daily food needs. In November, \$157,131 and 3.6 metric tonnes of commodities were distributed.
- With a contribution from ECHO, WFP is supporting the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society (ZRCS) to strengthen its institutional capacity to provide cash-based humanitarian assistance, building on the existing cooperate partnership between IFRC and WFP. In November, WFP Zimbabwe organized a one-week technical mission to conduct a Capacity Strengthening Assessment of the ZRCS. To further advance the partnership, WFP has decided to partner with ZRCS for 2018/19 LSA, starting in January 2019 in Muzarabani district.
- Fortification sensitization meetings continued in Mashonaland East and Harare. Major concerns raised by industry were the current challenges to access foreign currency to procure fortificants.

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Photo: WFP/Tatenda Macheke. Mr Chen Ning (right), Economic and Commercial Counsellor for the Chinese Embassy, and WFP Deputy Country Director Niels Balzer (centre) hand over commodities procured with Chinese funding at TRC.

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
272.3 m	100m	66m

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 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

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- The prevention of stunting programme resumed in Mutasa District in November. With the support to Maternity Waiting Homes, nutrition assistance was provided to 4,650 people in November.
- Under the R4 Rural Resilience programme, credit, savings and financial education trainings continued in Masvingo Ward 17, whilst at the same time the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) has started to work in the area supporting the use of appropriate seed varieties and agricultural practices.

Monitoring

- Process monitoring for LSA registration was conducted to establish if implementation was done according to laid-out guidelines and procedures. The use of relevant and context-specific food security indicators in combination with other relevant vulnerability indicators were considered during food security ranking processes. Satisfaction with the registration process was high, and most of the vulnerable households were reported to have been included on the programme.
- Complaints and feedback mechanisms were also established at all the assessed sites for feedback and facilitation of emerging issues resolution. Due to rising food insecurity, a large turn-out of community members was observed at all registration points, beyond the numbers that could be admitted in the programme. This resulted in an increase in the number of people presenting complaints of being excluded from the programme. This is consistent with a trend analysis of the Rural Livelihoods Assessment which shows an increase in the food in prevalence, from, 11.3 percent in 2017 to 28 percent in 2018. Referrals were thus made to the food assistance programmes implemented by the Department of Social Welfare where relevant.

Challenges

- Continual economic shocks being experienced in the country have resulted in market volatility and sharp price increases. In order to safeguard the humanitarian transfer value to people assisted, WFP will provide cash-based assistance (US dollars) through cash-in-transit (physical transfer of banknotes) in all districts.

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.