



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief January 2019



## 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**

## In Numbers

**2,399 mt** of food assistance distributed

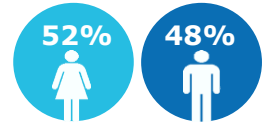
**US\$4.5m** cash-based transfers made

**2,000 mt** of sorghum locally procured

**US\$31.5m** six months (Mar–Aug 2019) net funding requirements, representing 67% of total

**2.9m** people in IPC Phases 3 and 4 and require urgent support

**706,247 people** assisted in January 2019



## Operational Updates

- A country-wide stay-away and demonstrations witnessed in Zimbabwe during the month of January, against high prices of basic commodities following the announcement of increased fuel prices, raised security concerns which resulted in disruption of activities; some distributions for Lean Season Assistance (LSA) and refugees spilled over into February.
- The January LSA cycle planned to assist 686,000 through both in-kind assistance and cash-based transfers. Cash-based transfers are still being done through the distribution of physical cash (Cash-in-Transit or CIT) in order for those assisted to extract maximum value from their assistance. Of the 24 districts reached in January, 18 received cash assistance complemented with an in-kind ration of vegetable oil and/or Super Cereal (a specialised nutritious product for households with children under the age of five); the remaining six districts received a full in-kind ration.
- WFP in partnership with UNDP and DFID signed a £3.95 million agreement to provide cash-based food assistance to some 116,000 highly food insecure people, including 97,000 in rural areas and 19,000 in the Harare suburb of Epworth, in a pilot urban programme.
- The start of the urban pilot was affected by January's shutdown and civil unrest; the programme will now commence in February.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, WFP assisted 4,662 people under its Nutrition activities. WFP implemented the Prevention of Stunting programme in Mutasa District with its partner Plan International, and continued to provide nutrition support to women awaiting delivery in maternity waiting homes through a partnership with UNFPA.
- As part of measures for supporting market linkages for farmers, WFP Zimbabwe finalised the procurement process of 2,000 mt of sorghum of local origin, that will constitute part of WFP's regional prepositioned stock available for sub-

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**Photo:** WFP/Tatenda Macheke, UN Resident Coordinator, Bishow Parajuli and heads of WFP - Eddie Rowe, DFID - Annabel Gerry, UNDP - Georges Van Montfort hold an agreement during a signing ceremony in Harare.

- **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	128m	31.5m

**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

*Continued from page 1....*

Saharan countries in times of emergencies and increased demand.

- The LSA and Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programmes partnered to support communities of Ward 6 in Mwenezi district with assistance to increase the holding value of their weir dam and carry out protection works on their assets created in 2015, as well as the construction of a dip tank during the lean season assistance window. This community-driven initiative provides immediate food relief while work is carried out to address their future needs.

### Monitoring

- The Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in coordination with the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping unit provided technical oversight on the Country Strategic Plan and DFID funded project baseline reports.
- Hands-on practice of tools programming, development of a prototype and testing of the Mobile Data Collection and Analytics (MDCA) was successfully concluded in January. This led to the successful adaptation of the distribution process monitoring tool specially adapted to support the refugee programme.

### Challenges

- With the planning of the 2019 cycle of the FFA programme well underway, the activity currently has funding from USAID to kick-start activities in some districts but currently faces a resourcing gap of USD 9.4 million to fully implement the programme. In the absence of additional funding, the multiyear approach for supporting FFA participants would be under threat.
- Despite disruptions and social unrest, the office remained operational.

### 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.