

Crisis response revision of Zimbabwe country strategic plan and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	April 2017– December 2021	No change	April 2017– December 2021
Beneficiaries	1 618 141	364 515	1 982 656
	<i>(USD)</i>		
Total cost	312 237 913	156 166 408	468 404 321
Transfers	238 557 376	129 708 789	368 266 165
Implementation	33 757 809	7 713 247	41 471 056
Adjusted direct support costs	20 677 144	9 213 089	29 890 233
Subtotal	292 992 329	146 635 125	439 627 454
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	19 245 584	9 531 283	28 776 867

Gender and age marker: 2A*

* <http://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>.

Rationale

1. The 2018-2019 rainfall season in Zimbabwe was characterized by a delayed onset and false start, especially in the southern provinces of Masvingo, Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North and parts of the Midlands. In some districts, planting of crops occurred during the first week of January, a month and a half later than usual. The government-led Second Round Crop and Livestock Assessment indicates that the 2019 maize harvest will be 52 percent lower than the below-average harvest of 2018. According to a rapid appraisal by the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) and a subsequent Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis conducted from January to February 2019, the number of people estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance during the 2018–2019 lean season rose to approximately 5.3 million, with 2.9 million people (30 percent of Zimbabwe’s rural population) estimated to be in urgent need of food assistance.
2. The current economic crisis in Zimbabwe has further exacerbated food insecurity through rising year-on-year inflation¹ and drastic fluctuation of the local currency relative to the United States dollar. This seriously undermines the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households.
3. Given the ongoing macro-economic crisis and the poor harvest in 2019, food insecurity is expected to deteriorate further during the 2019–2020 lean season.
4. Most of the people vulnerable to food insecurity reside in drought-prone rural communal areas or in high-density urban areas, where existing social safety nets and government input programmes have lesser reach and impact. The majority of rural populations rely exclusively on rain-fed agricultural production for their food consumption and income, making them extremely vulnerable to climate-related shocks and seasonal stressors.
5. The 2018 urban ZimVAC assessment indicated that 38 percent of the urban population is food-insecure. The dramatic market fluctuations since September 2018 have adversely

¹ Zimbabwe's annual rate of inflation surged to 56.9 percent in January 2019, making it the highest in 10 years.



affected the food security of poor urban residents, who are unable to cope with an increase in the price of basic commodities. Negative coping mechanisms vary from reducing the size and number of meals, illegal urban farming, transactional sex and the selling of household assets to buy food.

6. In addition to the existing food security crisis, Cyclone Idai hit the eastern part of Zimbabwe, an impoverished zone, on 15 and 16 March 2019, with the Chimanimani and Chipinge districts most impacted. The cyclone has exacerbated the vulnerabilities of an estimated 250,000 people who now require food assistance and agricultural and livelihood support in the short and medium-term.
7. This fifth revision to the Zimbabwe country strategic plan (CSP) will address increased needs for the 2019–2020 lean season, which is projected to start three months early in July 2019 and extend to April 2020. At the peak of the lean season, WFP will address the most urgent food security needs of 1.5 million people, including 200,000 people residing in urban areas. These figures are based on preliminary findings from the 2019 ZimVAC Rural and Urban Livelihood Assessment and the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis,² and take into consideration other social safety net interventions, as well as the response capacity of the Government and partners.
8. This revision will also increase the scale of service provision (Activity 13) for common logistics services in the districts of Chipinge and Chimanimani in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai. In addition, WFP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will be facilitating construction of a warehouse in Mutare.

Changes

Strategic orientation

9. No changes to the strategic orientation of the CSP will be made through this revision.
10. Previous budget revisions to this CSP include:
 - Revision 1, which was technical and accounted for the organization-wide reduction in the indirect support cost rate from 7 percent to 6.5 percent.
 - Revision 2, which scaled-up WFP's lean season assistance to 600,000 beneficiaries and extended this support by one month; and transferred weather-related insurance premiums from the capacity strengthening modality to a cash-based transfer modality.
 - Revision 3 was technical and implemented at headquarters level to ensure all CSPs transition to the simplified country portfolio budget structure. Modifications were not related to operational planning.
 - Revision 4 was prompted by increased levels of food insecurity caused by drought and economic hardship during the 2018–2019 lean season. Approved by the WFP Executive Director, it increased the number of beneficiaries by more than 850,000 people.

Strategic outcomes

Targeting

11. This revision will extend the length of assistance provided by WFP for the 2019–2020 lean season, reflecting an early start in July, prompted by a poor harvest and economic hardship. It will also increase the number of people assisted at the peak of this season to

² Final results are expected in July 2019.



1.5 million (from January to April 2020), up from the 230,000 people originally planned for this same period. Geographical targeting for this response will be guided by results of the ZimVAC national assessments and the IPC analysis.

12. Informed by experience gained in previous years, WFP will provide a nutritional ration consisting of SuperCereal Plus to all children aged 6 to 59 months to prevent acute malnutrition in households targeted for lean season assistance. This blanket approach is designed to mitigate the risk of children's nutritional status deteriorating during the peak of the lean season. In keeping with a nutrition-sensitive approach to programming and to promote good nutrition across a household, context-specific health and nutrition messages focusing on appropriate feeding practices, including dietary diversification, food preparation and hygiene, will be delivered.

Transfer modalities

13. WFP's choice of transfer modality will be informed by the results of market assessments undertaken jointly with the Government and other partners. While prices in US dollars have remained stable over the past several months, they have dramatically increased in the local currency, including for basic commodities. To ensure people assisted through cash continue to access the full intended value of the transfer, WFP will regularly monitor the prices of commodities to inform a modality switch when required.
14. Wherever possible, WFP and cooperating partners will register women as the recipients of food and/or cash entitlements. The target is to increase the proportion of women and men making decisions jointly on the use of these entitlements. In addition, women will constitute at least 60 percent of the final delivery point (FDP) committee, whose role is to facilitate safe and dignified distributions and take note of beneficiary concerns.

Service provision

15. This revision will also increase the scale of service provision (Activity 13) for the May 2019 to April 2020 period. Cyclone Idai caused severe flooding and landslides, and destroyed buildings, roads and bridges in the country's east, particularly in the districts of Chipinge and Chimanimani. This has increased demand for common logistics services, including storage and transport. In addition, WFP is partnering with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under the Global Fund to facilitate construction of a warehouse in Mutare.

Partnerships

16. WFP will implement its assistance for the lean season through local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with operational presence and proven capacity in the targeted districts. As stipulated through field-level agreements with WFP, NGO cooperating partners will carry out functions related to the distribution of food and/or cash to highly vulnerable households affected by seasonal food insecurity. They will also contribute to the partnership budget by providing cash/in-kind resources.
17. In collaboration with government departments at the district level, WFP cooperating partners will use lean season assistance as a platform to provide complementary trainings to the beneficiary communities, focusing on nutrition (including infant and young child feeding, and production and consumption of nutrient rich products which meet the specific requirements of various groups such as women, men, girls and boys), gender, crop and animal husbandry, financial literacy and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH), among others.

Country office capacity

18. The increased geographical coverage of assistance for the lean season will require WFP to consider opening an additional field office in Mutare to ensure WFP maintains strong field presence, oversight, operational backstopping, coordination support, and monitoring of



implementation, as well as full complementarity of assistance with Government and other players present in the districts of convergence. In addition, WFP will hire additional staff to bolster the capacity of field offices and the country office to ensure adequate activity monitoring.

Monitoring and evaluation

19. WFP will monitor and evaluate CSP operations to ensure achievement of the highest standards of quality, transparency and value-for-money. The Corporate Results Framework will continue to provide the normative instrument for tracking progress towards set goals over the lifetime of the Zimbabwe CSP, while the evaluation function will ensure strong accountability and learning. The country office will undertake a mid-term review of the CSP in 2019, and conduct a thematic decentralized evaluation of lean season interventions (Activity 1) and a full country portfolio evaluation in 2020. Monitoring systems and tools will be adjusted to enable effective collection of gender, age and disability data. Use of remote monitoring through mobile phones will be gradually scaled up. The collection of real-time information will allow timely decision making and programme adjustments where required.

Operational risks

20. Protection risks that could affect people assisted through WFP programmes include those related to access, safety and dignity. While shocks can affect everyone, there is evidence that certain groups are more vulnerable to food insecurity and often face greater challenges in accessing assistance, including women, children, people with disabilities and chronic illnesses, and the elderly. Protection risks will be identified by strengthening food security assessment methodologies and conducting participatory needs assessments at community level to better comprehend the different needs of vulnerable groups and inform activity design. Mitigation measures will also be put in place to respond to previous monitoring information indicating excessive travel distances for isolated households. WFP will work with cooperating partners to ensure these households are served first so that they can return home before dark.
21. Lack of participation by women, and other risks related to gender roles, will be addressed by ensuring equal and meaningful participation of women and disadvantaged groups in registration and distribution committees and within teams receiving feedback at helpdesks. These actions will be based on consultations with these groups to ensure that we minimize the risks of increased community and household tension or double-burden. Cooperating partners will inform communities on the reasons women have been registered as recipients of entitlements and sensitize them on issues relating to gender-based violence.
22. The country office will monitor and evaluate activities and use disaggregated data from consultations and feedback mechanisms to inform future programming.

Beneficiaries

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY

Strategic outcome	Activity	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-18 years)	Boys (0-18 years)	Total
1	1	Current	294 090	250 942	296 363	294 090	1 135 485
		Increase	94 410	80 558	95 137	94 410	364 515
		Revised	388 500	331 500	391 500	388 500	1 500 000
	2	Revised (<i>no change</i>)	3 000	3 900	3 750	4 350	15 000
2	4	Revised (<i>no change</i>)	137 550	-	26 364	24 336	188 250
4	7	Revised (<i>no change</i>)	120 953	103 107	121 887	120 953	467 000
5	10	Revised (<i>no change</i>)	5 500	4 500	-	-	10 000
Total (without overlap)		Current	519 785	309 972	395 270	393 114	1 618 141
		Increase	94 410	80 558	95 137	94 410	364 515
		Revised	614 195	390 530	490 407	487 524	1 982 656

Transfers

**TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) or CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE (USD/person/day)
BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY**

	Strategic outcome 1						Strategic outcome 2			Strategic outcome 4		Strategic outcome 5
	Activity 1: Provide cash-based transfers (CBTs) or food transfers for the most vulnerable households affected by seasonal food shortages			Activity 2: Provide unconditional CBTs and/or food transfers for refugees in camps			Activity 4: Support the Government's nutrition programming at national and subnational levels			Activity 7: Support the creation and rehabilitation of assets		Activity 10: Risk management, insurance and financing
Beneficiary type	Standard	Standard	Children 6-59 months (top-up)	Standard	Chronically ill (top-up)	New arrivals	Children 6-23 months	Children 6-23 months	Pregnant women	Standard	Standard	
Modality	CBTs	Food	Food	CBTs	Food	Food	Food	Micro-nutrient powder	Food	CBTs	Food	CBTs
Cereals	-	333	-	-	-	450	-	-	400	-	333	-
Pulses	-	67	-	-	-	67	-	-	80	-	67	-
Oil	-	25	-	-	-	25	-	-	25	-	25	-
Salt	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sugar	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-
SuperCereal	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	200	-	-	-
SuperCereal Plus	-	-	200	-	-	-	200	-	-	-	-	-
Micronutrient powder	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	-	-	-	-
Total kcal/day	-	1 664	787	-	376	2 188	787	-	2 724	-	1 664	-
% kcal from protein	-	11	17	-	16	11	17	-	11	-	11	-
CBTs (USD/person/day)	0.35	-	-	0.50	-	-	-	-	-	0.40	-	N/A*
Number of feeding days per year	180	180	180	365	365	365	365	365	365**	180	180	N/A*

* The CBT component under Strategic outcome 5 is represented by insurance (value voucher for services), and thus cannot be translated directly into food rations or a cash equivalent.

** Mothers are fed for 15 days a month however the programme runs all year round.



TABLE 3: TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE						
Food type/cash-based transfer	Current budget		Increase/decrease		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	80 686	20 644 589	38 666	11 035 161	119 351	31 679 750
Pulses	16 073	11 566 540	7 802	3 581 675	23 875	15 108 215
Oil and fats	5 274	4 309 599	3 753	2 503 854	9 027	6 813 452
Mixed and blended	12 057	10 856 753	5 866	5 100 671	17 923	15 957 424
Others	5	92 333	0	1	5	92 334
Total (food)	114 096	47 469 814	56 086	22 181 361	170 182	69 651 175
CBTs and commodity vouchers	-	81 759 831	-	77 630 663	-	159 390 494
Total (food and CBT value)	114 096	129 229 645	56 086	99 812 024	170 182	229 041 669

Cost breakdown

23. The main cost driver for this budget revision will be the increased number of people assisted for the 2019-2020 lean season (1,500,000 at peak), and the early start of this support, prompted by poor harvests and the ongoing economic hardships.
24. While food rations will be maintained, the monthly value of the CBT ration for lean season assistance will be reduced from USD 12 to USD 10.47 to match the results of recent market assessments.
25. Supply chain rates will also increase to accommodate the changing economic environment, including increased costs for procurement, transport and storage.
26. Activity 13, under strategic outcome 6, will increase to accommodate greater demand for service provision in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai.

TABLE 4: COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)

	Strategic Result 1 (SDG 2.1)	Strategic Result 2 (SDG 2.2)	Strategic Result 3 (SDG 2.3)	Strategic Result 4 (SDG 2.4)	Strategic Result 5 (SDG 17.9)	Strategic Result 8 (SDG 17.16)	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	Strategic outcome 4	Strategic outcome 5	Strategic outcome 6	
Focus area	Crisis response	Root causes	Root causes	Resilience building	Root causes	Root causes	
Transfer	126 262 326	0	0	0	0	3 446 462	129 708 789
Implementation	7 570 747	0	0	0	0	142 500	7 713 247
Adjusted direct support costs							9 213 089
Subtotal							146 635 125
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)							9 531 283
Total							156 166 408

TABLE 5: OVERALL CSP COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)

	Strategic Result 1 (SDG 2.1)	Strategic Result 2 (SDG 2.2)	Strategic Result 3 (SDG 2.3)	Strategic Result 4 (SDG 2.4)	Strategic Result 5 (SDG 17.9)	Strategic Result 8 (SDG 17.16)	Total
	Strategic outcome 1	Strategic outcome 2	Strategic outcome 3	Strategic outcome 4	Strategic outcome 5	Strategic outcome 6	
Focus area	Crisis response	Root causes	Root causes	Resilience building	Root causes	Root causes	
Transfer	267 761 365	11 266 335	5 056 966	69 857 630	7 294 323	7 029 546	368 266 165
Implementation	23 087 608	1 995 671	989 323	11 897 402	3 255 299	245 753	41 471 056
Adjusted direct support cost	20 888 454	995 977	464 277	6 217 028	785 748	538 749	29 890 233
Subtotal	311 737 426	14 257 984	6 510 566	87 972 061	11 335 370	7 814 048	439 627 454
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	20 340 335	938 108	429 912	5 800 843	755 785	511 883	28 776 867
Total	332 077 761	15 196 092	6 940 478	93 772 904	12 091 155	8 325 931	468 404 321

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Acronyms used in the document

CSP	country strategic plan
IPC	Integrated Phase Classification
UNDP	United Nations Development Plan
ZimVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee