

Crisis response revision of Zimbabwe country strategic plan (2017–2021) and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 April 2017– 31 December 2021	No change	No change
Beneficiaries	4 582 656	345 000	4 927 656
<i>(USD)</i>			
Total cost	646 700 952	182 596 775	829 297 727
Transfers	516 213 521	161 129 094	677 342 615
Implementation	49 989 693	6 599 145	56 588 837
Adjusted direct support costs	40 838 918	4 213 225	45 052 143
Subtotal	607 042 131	171 941 465	778 983 596
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	39 658 821	10 655 310	50 314 132

Gender and age marker code*: 2A

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

Rationale

1. The 2019/2020 agricultural season is the third consecutive failed season occurring as a result of poor rainfall, limited availability of inputs, shortage of draught power, and lack of extension services and agricultural mechanization. Cereal production in 2020 was estimated at 1.2 million tonnes; 28 percent below the national requirement for human consumption.
2. The current economic crisis has further exacerbated food insecurity through rising year-on-year inflation and fluctuation of local currency relative to the US dollar. The most food-insecure households are typically rural communities living in drought-prone areas. Due to heavy reliance on smallholder rain-fed agriculture, the economy and the livelihoods of rural communities are highly vulnerable to climate change and climate variability. Drought is the most important agricultural risk (World Bank Report, 2019).
3. According to the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC, July 2020), the global acute malnutrition prevalence has increased from 3.6 percent in 2019 to 3.8 percent in 2020. The nutritional status of children deteriorated with the minimum acceptable diet decreasing from 6.9 percent in 2019 to 2.1 percent in 2020. The minimum dietary diversity score for women of childbearing age has also deteriorated from 43 percent in 2019 to 19 percent in 2020.



4. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) estimates that 3.38 million people, representing 35 percent of the rural population, are food insecure during the first quarter of 2021. This is a decrease from the previous IPC projection of 4.34 million for February to June 2020. This decrease is partially linked to an anticipated good agricultural season due to favourable rainfall conditions resulting in above average production. In terms of urban food insecurity, there was an increase of 30 percent of the urban population being food insecure in 2019 to 42 percent in 2020 (Urban ZimVAC) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. WFP has undertaken an internal food security analysis to carry out preliminary projections of the food-insecure population for 2020/21. The analysis considered the performance of the rainfall and agricultural seasons, routine food security and market monitoring exercises, impact of COVID-19, and worsening economic conditions. WFP has also considered the assistance plans of the Government and other food security partners.

Changes

6. This revision addresses increased humanitarian needs by augmenting the number of urban beneficiaries and the duration of lean season assistance (LSA). The length of LSA for 2020/2021 is extended by an additional month to April 2021 due to the changing agricultural season as a result of climate change.
7. Based on the Urban ZimVAC and WFP internal assessment, the revision seeks to increase the activity 1 caseload by 345,000 beneficiaries in urban areas. This is increased from the 2020 urban caseload targeting 205,000 people. In rural areas, WFP is scaling-down the response from targeting 3.9 million to 3.5 million people, in accordance with IPC findings. In total, WFP aims to assist 4.05 million people (3.5 million in rural areas and 550,000 in urban areas) at the peak of the lean season from January to April 2021.
8. For urban households, WFP will continue providing cash-based transfers (CBTs)¹. All disbursements are now done through value-based vouchers and remittance exchange companies following the erosion of the transfer value, as well as the Government's suspension of mobile money payments. Through this revision, WFP will increase the transfer value from USD 10.5 to USD 13 to account for food price inflation, as recommended by the local cash working group.
9. In rural areas, WFP will continue providing in-kind food guided by the prevailing macroeconomic situation characterized by unstable prices, high food inflation, and liquidity challenges. The strategy for scaling down will be guided by the 2021 Rural ZimVAC and IPC assessments.
10. To mitigate delays of food arrival, coordination will be enhanced with the WFP offices in four corridors (Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia) for the overland movement of commodities. WFP will also continue to engage with the Government to ensure efficient processing of humanitarian cargo in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as limited working hours for government offices have increased processing times, and screenings at ports of entry have also caused delays.
11. WFP continues to ensure accountability through onsite monitoring both directly and indirectly through partners. In the context of COVID-19, geo-tagged photos, videos and live video calling are used. WFP has switched to remote verifications and post-distribution monitoring through live voice calls. The toll-free hotline provides a platform for reporting protection issues. WFP will also commission a decentralized evaluation in 2021.

¹ The urban programme sends nutrition messages, including suggested food items, through SMS to beneficiaries. In conjunction with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, WFP also displays banners with a list of food items for improved nutrition.



12. Given the country context and scale of response, the following risks are imminent:
- The COVID-19 pandemic and increased lockdown measures may hamper operations, though humanitarian activities are currently exempt. A contingency plan is in place to ensure business continuity.
 - Political sensitivities may escalate, particularly if there is a return to strict lockdown measures and the macroeconomic environment deteriorates. Crime is on the rise due to the harsh economic environment and the high unemployment rate. Contingency planning for operations and security measures have been put in place. WFP has an updated emergency preparedness plan and has completed a logistics cluster preparedness project.

Beneficiary analysis

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	1 061 900	906 100	1 070 100	1 061 900	4 100 000
		Increase	89 355	76 245	90 045	89 355	345 000
		Revised	1 151 255	982 345	1 160 145	1 151 255	4 445 000*
	2	Current	3 000	3 900	3 750	4 350	15 000
2	4	Current	137 550	-	26 364	24 336	188 250
4	7	Current	120 953	103 107	121 887	120 953	467 000
5	10	Current	5 500	4 500	-	-	10 000
Total (without overlap)		Current	1 287 595	965 130	1 169 007	1 160 924	4 582 656
		Increase	89 355	76 245	90 045	89 355	345 000
		Revised	1 376 950	1 041 375	1 259 052	1 250 279	4 927 656

* This figure is the peak for the duration of the CSP.

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			Activity 2			Activity 4			Activity 7		Activity 10
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	–	–	–	–	–	–
Super Cereal	–	–	–	–	100	–	–	–	200	–	–	–
Super Cereal Plus	–	–	200 ^a	–	–	–	200	–	–	–	–	–
Micronutrient powder	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.5	–	–	–	–
Total kcal/day	–	1 664	787	–	376	2 188	787	–	2 724	–	1 664	–



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Modality	CBTs	Food	Food	CBTs	Food	Food	Food	Micro-nutrient powder	Food	CBTs	Food	CBTs
% kcal from protein	–	11	17	–	16	11	17	–	11	–	11	–
Cash-based transfers (USD/person/day)	0.433	–	–	0.50	–	–	–	–	–	0.40	–	N/A ^b
Number of feeding days per year	180 ^c	180 ^d	180	365	365	365	365	365	365 ^e	180	180	N/A ^b

^a Lipid-based nutrient supplement (Plumpy'Doz) to substitute Super Cereal Plus as necessary

^b 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.

^c In 2020–2021, the feeding days were 365 days.

^d In 2020, the feeding days were 365 days; for 2021 it will be 210 days.

^e 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

	Current budget		Increase		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	305 277	101 767 691	135 354	38 334 294	440 631	140 101 985
Pulses	55 938	39 429 032	27 071	19 481 724	83 008	58 910 756
Oil and fats	20 600	15 364 988	10 152	10 062 225	30 752	25 427 213
Mixed and blended foods	20 008	19 665 718	5 662	3 795 686	25 670	23 461 404
Other	5	92 334			5	92 334
Total (food)	401 827	176 319 762	178 238	71 673 930	580 066	247 993 692
Cash-based transfers		132 087 354		30 383 838		162 471 192
Total (food and CBT value)	401 827	308 407 116	178 238	102 057 768	580 066	410 464 884

Cost breakdown

13. The cash transfer value is increased to USD 13 per beneficiary per month based on a review of market prices, inflation rates, food gap analysis and transfer modality. For in-kind food distributions, the deteriorating road networks have resulted in a marginal increase in transport rates.
14. Across all strategic outcomes, there has been the need to increase staff to effectively support operations.

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

	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 2/ SDG Target 2.2	Strategic Result 3/ SDG Target 2.3	Strategic Result 4/ SDG Target 2.4	Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9	Strategic Result 8/ SDG Target 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	Crisis response	
Transfers	160 873 103			196 966	(126 412)	185 438	161 129 094
Implementation	6 474 561	(57 862)	(27 049)	310 986	(101 492)		6 599 145
Adjusted direct support costs							4 213 225
Subtotal							171 941 465
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)							10 655 310
Total							182 596 775

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

	Strategic Result 1/ SDG Target 2.1	Strategic Result 2/ SDG Target 2.2	Strategic Result 3/ SDG Target 2.3	Strategic Result 4/ SDG Target 2.4	Strategic Result 5/ SDG Target 17.9	Strategic Result 8/ SDG Target 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	Crisis response	
Transfers	562 765 736	11 266 335	5 056 966	70 054 595	20 983 999	7 214 984	677 342 615
Implementation	38 080 805	1 937 810	962 275	12 208 389	3 153 806	245 753	56 588 837
Adjusted direct support costs	36 314 454	861 940	388 107	5 325 828	1 670 019	491 796	45 052 143
Subtotal	637 160 995	14 066 085	6 407 348	87 588 812	25 807 824	7 952 533	778 983 596
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	41 492 867	925 635	423 203	5 775 932	1 696 494		50 314 132
Total	678 653 862	14 991 720	6 830 550	93 364 744	27 504 318	7 952 533	829 297 727