



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief April 2021



Operational Context

Zimbabwe continues to experience a protracted humanitarian crisis as a result of persistent climatic and economic shocks. Key findings indicated that 3.4 million people were food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance during the peak of the lean season, from January to April 2021. During the lean season, an additional 1.2 million people were food insecure but not included in this figure as they were already receiving assistance from WFP and other humanitarian partners. In urban areas, according to Urban ZimVAC released in March 2021, 2.4 million people are currently estimated to be food insecure. In conclusion, a total of 7.1 million people were estimated to be food insecure between January and April 2021.

A subsequent assessment of the rural food insecurity situation will be completed after the annual maize harvest comes in throughout the coming weeks. This will help to inform WFP's programming in Zimbabwe going forward.

Through the humanitarian-development nexus, WFP provides both emergency humanitarian and long-term resilience support to those most affected by adverse shocks. WFP has been present in Zimbabwe since 2002.



Population: **14.6 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **150 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Low**

2020 Global Hunger Index: **categorized as 'Serious'**

In Numbers

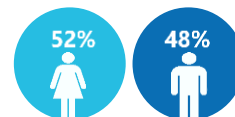
7.1 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance from January to April 2021

2,598 MT food assistance procured in April 2021

US \$3.8 million cash-based transfers made in April 2021

US \$27.6 million shortfall (May – October 2021)

1.8 million people assisted in April 2021



Operational Updates

- In April, WFP's Lean Season Assistance programme scaled up to reach 1.5 million people across 28 rural districts with in-kind food assistance.
- The Urban Food Security and Resilience Building programme is active in 24 urban domains across the country. A total of 321,813 people currently receive USD 12 per person per month via value voucher or remittance exchange. The transfer value is priced to cover 62 percent of an individual's basic food needs.
- In April, WFP provided in-kind food assistance to 13,691 refugees at Tongogara Refugee Camp.
- WFP's Small Grains project trained 160 AGRITEX extension workers and 60,357 smallholder farmers in 8 districts in climate-smart agricultural practices.
- Crop monitoring activities conducted in 5 districts in April indicate that farmers supported by WFP will yield approximately 0.8 mt of grain per hectare, considerably more than the 0.25 mt per hectare harvested in 2020.

WFP Country Strategy

Under WFP's five-year CSP, while maintaining a strong humanitarian assistance capacity, WFP is focusing on supporting longer-term national social protection and resilience-building efforts to achieve zero hunger. WFP is building on its innovative work in knowledge- and evidence-generation, while increasingly focusing on strengthening the systems and institutions that are ultimately responsible for sustainably reaching zero hunger in Zimbabwe.

Country Strategic Plan (2017–2021)	
Total Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Shortfalls (in USD)
468.4 m	27.6 m
Strategic Result 01: Everyone has access to food	
Activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 02: No one suffers from malnutrition	
Strategic Outcome 02: Children in prioritized districts have stunting rate trends in line with the achievements of national and global targets by 2025	
Activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 03: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition	
Strategic Outcome 03: Smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe have increased access to well-functioning agricultural markets by 2030	
Activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 04: Food systems are sustainable	
Strategic Outcome 04: Food insecure rural households and smallholder farmers achieve food security and resilience to repeated exposure to multiple shocks and stressors	
Activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 05: Developing Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs	
Strategic Outcome 05: The social protection system ensures that chronically vulnerable population throughout the country are able to meet their basic needs all year round	
Activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	
Strategic Result 06: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology to strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs	
Strategic Outcome 05: Partners in Zimbabwe are reliably supported by world-class, cost-effective and efficient supply chain services	
Activities:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity 6.1: Provide logistics and procurement expertise and services 	

- WFP Zimbabwe's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) unit, in coordination with the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) team, rolled out a revised verification tool for use under the Urban Social Assistance programme. Beneficiary verifications are ongoing across all new urban domains and will be conducted on a rolling basis over the coming months. WFP maintains a robust complaints and feedback mechanism (hotline, help desk, suggestion box) to ensure channels through which affected people can voice their needs and concerns.

Challenges

- COVID-19 restrictions continue to hamper international procurement processes with bottlenecks occurring at border crossing points and with customs clearances, which have resulted in commodity pipeline breaks.
- Zimbabwe continues to experience high levels of inflation and cash shortages (both local and foreign currency). Urban disbursements were impacted by the national COVID-19 lockdowns which resulted in store closures, reduced operating hours and reduced capacity of some cooperating partners. These challenges have lessened since lockdown restrictions were lifted on 01 March.
- Stunting prevention activities are currently suspended due to resourcing constraints. Urgent funding is needed for the continued prevention and early mitigation of malnutrition.

Coming Up

- WFP has started the process of developing a new strategic vision and portfolio of work for the Zimbabwe Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for 2022-2026. The Country Office has brought together an internal taskforce to conduct thematic appraisals and design the process of the next CSP.
- In June, the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee is expected to release its analysis of the rural food security situation given the recently undergone maize harvest. This analysis will help inform WFP programming.

Donors

Canada, China, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Green Climate Fund, IFAD, India, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, UNCF, United Kingdom, United States and the World Bank.