Raibha to stand climatic shocks

Further information:
Contact info:

In Numbers

10,050 mt of food assistance distributed
USD 2.94m cash-based transfers made
USD 71m next six months (January - June 2022) net funding requirements
838,996 people assisted
In December 2021

Operational Updates

- WFP informed stakeholders and participants under the Urban Social Assistance and Resilience Building programme about the downscaling of this initiative due to insufficient funding. Starting in January 2022, WFP will only reach 49,000 (in Harare South, Masvingo Urban and Chiredzi) out of the 326,000 vulnerable city dwellers that benefitted from cash transfers throughout 2021, with an entitlement of 10 instead of 12 dollars. WFP and cooperating partners communicated these changes to beneficiaries through various mediums including radio, visual posters, short message services (sms), written signage, and verbally through community meetings and established community feedback mechanisms.

Some of the families that will no longer receive cash support will be prioritized under longer term resilience-building activities: WFP is expanding its coverage from 30,000 to 180,000 people, with the aim of contributing to more sustainable solutions for people in cities. Cash and resilience-building activities are complementary to moving beyond a cycle of dependence, as transfers provide a lifeline to meet short term needs and livelihood options help boost the local economy and find sustainable longer-term solutions.

- The lean season response scaled up to target 542,000 people across 12 districts in December. However, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and delays in distributions during the rainy season, WFP provided double rations (covering December and January cycles) across 9 districts, thus reaching 625,200 people. WFP will further increase its coverage to 649,000 people every month, across 12 rural districts, until March.

- To manage climate-related risks, WFP enhances linkages between risk reduction (asset creation and improved agricultural practices), risk transfer (access to insurance to farmers), risk reserves (livelihood diversification) and prudent risk taking (saving and lending schemes). Preliminary findings of the decentralized evaluation report covering 2018-2021 show that participatory planning ensured that actions were relevant to participants’ context and needs. The provision of crop insurance is acknowledged as an appropriate way of mitigating climatic risks, while village savings and loan groups are relevant for enabling a largely unbanked population to save and take loans. Mechanization is identified as a way to reduce resistance to adopting conservation agriculture techniques. WFP and its partners will integrate recommendations from this study in their planning.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2017-June 2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>958.9m</td>
<td>613.3m</td>
<td>71 m</td>
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Strategic Result 1: Basic food needs of vulnerable populations are met.

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:
- Cash/food transfers to households affected by seasonal food shortages.
- Unconditional food/cash transfers and livelihood support to refugees

Strategic Result 2: Child stunting rates in line with national/global targets.

Strategic Outcome 2: Children in prioritized districts have stunting rate trends in line with the achievement of national and global targets by 2025.

Activities:
- Build evidence for nutrition advocacy, policy direction and programme decision-making.
- Support the Government’s nutrition programming at the national and sub-national levels.

Strategic Result 3: Increased access to markets.

Strategic Outcome 3: Smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe have increased access to well-functioning agricultural markets by 2030.

Activities:
- Support the development of an efficient local food marketing and procurement mechanism.
- Enable farmer organizations to aggregate and market surplus production.

Strategic Result 4: Food security and resilience to seasonal shocks.

Strategic Outcome 4: Food-insecure rural households and smallholder farmers achieve food security and resilience to repeated exposure to multiple shocks and stressors.

Activities:
- Support the creation and rehabilitation of assets for sustainable food and nutrition security.
- Enhance the capacity of prioritized districts to plan and manage resilience-building.

Strategic Result 5: Vulnerable peoples basic needs met all year round.

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:
- Support innovative risk management, insurance and financing mechanisms.
- Provide analytical expertise to support the evidence-based planning.

Strategic Result 6: Partnerships and supply chain.

Strategic Outcome 5: Partners in Zimbabwe are reliably supported by world-class, cost-effective and efficient supply chain services.

Activities: Provide logistics and procurement expertise and services.

Evidence generation & research

- Standard Precipitation Indices (SPIs) computed from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) detected the probability of a mild-to-moderate drought in Mudzi early 2022. As a result, the Forecast-based Financing (FbF) Standard Operating Procedure for Mudzi district was activated in September to implement anticipatory actions to avoid negative coping strategies. To provide safe and adequate water for communities and livestock, WFP installed seven boreholes in December. The implementation of other anticipatory actions on dissemination of relevant, timely and simple climate information to assist farmers in better decision-making is underway, in collaboration with the Meteorological Services Department. FbF is a mechanism whereby early preparedness and community level actions are pre-planned based on credible forecasts and are implemented before the disaster strikes.

- Using sources from multiple Government agencies, WFP consolidated and geo-referenced a comprehensive baseline dataset for the 72hr post-disaster assessment approach in preparation for potential floods/cyclones during the 2021/22 rainfall season. The dataset compiles geographic, demographic and infrastructure-related information that, along with vulnerability criteria, can inform an early multi-sector response.

- To better understand the impact of water management-related assets, WFP collected data to inform a Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA). The objective is to quantify the benefits accrued against the costs of selected assets focused on soil/water conservation, dams/water infrastructures, income generating activities/market support and complementary activities. The study focuses on 39 water management-related assets built in Mwenezi District (Masvingo Province) between 2017 and 2020. Around 10,000 households (25 percent of the district’s population) are estimated to have benefited from these works, which were also complemented by nutrition training, farming techniques and gender training. Findings will be available in January 2022.

Challenges

- WFP Zimbabwe is facing significant funding gaps to reach affected populations through a range of life-saving and changing activities in the first half of 2022. If new funds are received, WFP will prioritize urban cash transfers and food assistance to the 14,000 refugees in Tongogara.

- The new variant of COVID-19 and subsequent fourth wave is disrupting movement in Zimbabwe. WFP and partners are putting in place measures to ensure continuity of implementation and monitoring.

Donors

Canada, China Aid, Danida, EU-ECHO, Finland, France, Germany, Green Climate Fund, IFAD, India-UN Development Partnership Fund, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein Development Service, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Sweden, South Africa, Switzerland, UN-CERF, UK FCDO, US BHA, World Bank.