



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief January 2022



Operational Context

Zimbabwe is a land-locked, lower-middle income, food-deficit country. Over the last decade, it has experienced several economic and environmental shocks that have contributed to high food insecurity and malnutrition. At least 49 percent of its population live in extreme poverty and it is estimated that 5.3 million people across rural and urban areas are food insecure – many impacted by the effects of climate change, protracted economic instability and COVID-19. Zimbabwe recorded 16,408 new cases and 334 deaths in January, down from 75,691 new cases and an increase from 308 deaths in December.

Drought is the most significant climate-related risk. Frequent occurrence has significant consequences on livelihoods and food security. About 70 percent of the population is dependent on rain-fed farming, while most farmers are smallholders with low productivity. This past year and upcoming lean season are predicted to produce better harvest results – following good rainfall. However, despite a bumper harvest, the compounding circumstances continue to impact people most vulnerable to shocks – with growing needs in urban areas.

The 2020/21 agricultural season produced better harvest results – following good rainfall. However, despite a bumper harvest, the compounding circumstances continue to impact people most vulnerable to shocks – with significant needs in urban areas.



Population: **15.6 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **150 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **24% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

2,045 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 39,000 cash-based transfers made

USD 58 m next six months (March – August 2022) net funding requirements

363,384 people assisted
In January 2022

Operational Updates

- In January, WFP entered into a partnership with ECORYS - a leading European research and consultancy company - the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and Plan International to utilize the Urban Social Assistance programme as a platform to implement a gender-sensitive pilot programme in Chiredzi District. This will use the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) model to promote economic empowerment among women within vulnerable urban settlements. Twenty-three Internal Savings and Loans (ISAL) groups have been created already among cash assistance beneficiaries.
- The Lean Season Assistance (LSA) programme scaled up its response in January – at the peak of the lean season – to support 648,718 people in 12 districts (January to March) from 542,352 in December. In January, LSA provided assistance to 208,387 people, while the remainder had been provided their January rations in December to mitigate against the challenges caused by heavy rainfall early in the year and by restrictions put in place to manage the spread of COVID-19.
- 12,378 of the planned 13,800 refugees were assisted through cash-based assistance in December 2021 (distributions completed in January 2022). The number reached represents the refugees in Tongogara Refugee Camp who collected their transfer in person and/or on behalf of their household. Transfer collection on behalf of absent refugees was suspended.
- WFP is finalizing the analysis and review of the Fill the Nutrient Gap or Cost of Diet analysis before a stakeholder validation exercise. This analysis will increase the understanding of the likely magnitude and main causes of the nutrient gap among key groups and inform policies and the nutrition response in the country.
- The support to maternity waiting homes (MWHs) implemented in 52 health centres in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, assisted 2,395 women in January. This activity is key in supporting the government to reduce maternal mortality rates through improved access to health facilities.
- As part of the anticipatory actions under forecast based financing, the dissemination of weather and climate advisories to 6,500 farmers commenced in Mudzi in January, to guide planning for the agricultural season.

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Image: This hydroponics project at Tongogara Refugee Camp will diversify consumption and income source for refugees at the camp. WFP/ Tatenda Macheka

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
959 m	615 m	58 m*

* Includes the first two months of Country Strategic Plan 2022-2026 starting in July 2022

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 6: 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

- According to WFP's HungerMap LIVE, the number of people who reported having insufficient food consumption has been on the decline since November 2021 from 6.1 million to 5.9 million in December 2021, and then to 5.1 million during January 2022. This decline is likely to be attributed to an increase in food assistance, availability of some green harvest and indigenous vegetables and fruits. The improvement in access to food was also observed through the decrease in the number of people resorting to crisis and above crisis livelihood coping; from 9.6 million people at the end of December 2021 to 8.9 people at the end of January 2022.
- WFP commissioned an R4 Rural Resilience Evaluation in 2021, whose major objective was to produce new evidence for operational and strategic decision-making to inform the second phase of the R4 rural resilience initiative and the WFP's approach to resilience building programming in the 2022-2026 Country Strategic Plan. The Evaluation found that beneficiaries – in particular women – experienced an improvement in food consumption, diet diversity and resilience over the course of the programme. Women's needs and situations were also addressed via a thorough and participatory planning process (for example, in facilitating their participation and saving them labour). In addition, village Savings and Loan (VSL) clubs helped a vast unbanked population save and borrow.

Challenges

- As part of precautionary measures against the potential impacts of Tropical Storm Ana, guided by the indications from the Civil Protection Unit to limit movements in the District, LSA distributions in Mutare were put on hold for 3 days to ensure safety of those assisted, WFP and partner staff.
- WFP operations in Zimbabwe continue to face funding challenges, with USD 58 million of the required USD 62.6 million for the period March to August 2022, still not resourced.
- The urban social assistance programme was unable to carry out January disbursements within the calendar month due to delays experienced in finalizing contractual agreements with partners. The disbursements will be done in February, also ensuring that beneficiaries will still receive all the planned cycles through June.

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.