



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief April 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 – many impacted by the effects of climate change, protracted economic instability and global stressors. As of 30 April 2022, Zimbabwe recorded 247,842 COVID-19 cases and 5,469 deaths.

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.

Despite a bumper harvest in 2020/2021, compounding circumstances continued to impact people most vulnerable to shocks – with growing needs also in urban areas as a result of COVID-19 related lockdowns.

The 2021/2022 agricultural season was marked by erratic rainfall and dry spells in different parts of Zimbabwe, which resulted in a 43 percent decline in cereal production from 3.1 million mt for the 2020/21 season to the current 1.7 million mt. Communal farmers are the most affected group.



Population: **15.6 million**

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

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

38 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 0.7 m cash-based transfers made

USD 52.2 m next six months (June – November 2022) net funding requirements

65,286 people assisted
in April 2022

Operational Updates

- In April, the Urban Social Assistance and Resilience Building programme provided cash-based transfers to 48,760 people to meet their immediate food needs. Cash support to this vulnerable population is however facing funding constraints which will result in a further scale-down of activities starting in July 2022. Urban resilience activities are currently ongoing in 23 domains.
- In its last month of implementation, WFP assisted 3,238 pregnant women in maternity waiting homes (MWH), through a partnership with the Ministry of Health and Child Care. Pregnant women were supported with a daily ration of cereal, pulses, fortified oil, and Super Cereal during their two weeks stay at the clinics prior to childbirth.
- WFP started piloting the use of a [remittance-based company in the provision of cash-based transfers at the Tongogara Refugee Camp](#). 13,288 refugees were supported. Long-term refugees received cash transfers, while those newly arrived received in-kind food and children below 2 years, chronically ill people, and pregnant and lactating women were provided with supplementary rations to enhance their nutrition.
- Food assistance for assets (FFA) activities, which were scheduled to start in May, will commence in June due to delayed availability of funding. Activities will reach five districts instead of the planned 12 districts, as a result of limited resources.
- A UN-to-UN agreement was signed between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and WFP to facilitate farmers' access to climate services using a Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) approach, which combines historical climate data and forecasts with farmers' knowledge of what works in their context. It uses participatory planning methods to help them make informed decisions about their agricultural practices. WFP is in the process of partnering with the University of Reading in the United Kingdom (the developer of the PICSA approach), as a technical service provider for this activity.

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Image: Fish farming at the Njovo Weir in Masvingo, harvesting their fish for consumption and sale. WFP/ Samantha Reinders

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2022)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
959 m	617 m	52.2 m*

* Includes the first five 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

- In April, WFP conducted a workshop with Cloud to Street (a leading flood mapping platform) to evaluate the pilot flood monitoring initiative in Zimbabwe, as well as further strengthen partner capacity and plan the way forward. The initiative offers concrete analysis to help government and humanitarian organizations to prepare for and respond to disasters. The workshop was attended by all partners (Meteorological Services Department, Zimbabwe National Water Authority, Department of Civil Protection, FAO and OCHA) involved in the customization and implementation of the initiative.
- In collaboration with the Food and Nutrition Council, various government ministries and departments, [WFP supported the updating of district profiles](#) for Mashonaland Central and West, while the review and editing of district profiles for Masvingo, Midlands, Matabeleland North and South provinces that were updated earlier, was also undertaken.
- WFP is supporting preparatory work for the 2022 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee's Rural livelihood assessment scheduled for May. In April WFP, supported the field-testing of the assessment questionnaire carried out in eight districts. The exercise will strengthen the survey and training of enumerators for improved data quality.

Challenges

- Funding to WFP in Zimbabwe is sharply declining, forcing to cut flagship activities, by reducing entitlements (under the cash-based assistance programme), and caseloads (under the cash-based assistance programme, food assistance for assets and the lean season response). Arrangements are in place to rapidly scale up if funding becomes available.
- The price of food commodities (cereal-based products and vegetable in particular) is increasing, as a result of tight global markets. There has been an upward movement on the price of fuel that could have a ripple effect on the cost of goods and services. This would further trigger [inflationary pressure on the economy, drive food insecurity and impact WFP's assistance](#) too.
- According to the Second Crop and Livestock Assessment, maize production has decreased by about 43% this year compared to last year and communal land productivity has shrunk by half, anticipating an early and harsh lean season for smallholder farming communities.

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.