



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief May 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 climatic shocks, protracted economic instability and global stressors. As of 31 May 2022, Zimbabwe recorded 252,398 COVID-19 cases and 5,503 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.

Zimbabwe has been added to the list of Hunger Hotspots due to an erratic rainfall season and consequent drop in expected maize production (which declined by 43% as compared to last year and communal farmers yields have shrunk by half), combined with the effects of persistently high inflation that has hit three-digit levels. Annual inflation rose from 50% to 132% in May 2022 while currency inflation rose from 50% to 155% during the same period. These factors are expected to stress the food security situation in the upcoming months, in both rural and urban areas, with vulnerable communities being unable to afford basic foods and other primary needs.



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

23 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

133,026(*) people assisted in May 2022

Operational Updates

- WFP supported 11,710 refugees at the Tongogara Refugee Camp (TRC) through cash-based transfers, while additional 150 received in-kind food assistance. The introduction of biometrics in the cash disbursement verification process resulted in the elimination of unauthorized third-party transactions. This is a positive move towards WFP supporting refugees who are resident in TRC.
- Under the Urban Social Assistance and Resilience Building programme, 48,911 received cash-based transfers to meet their immediate food needs and 71,529 participated to income-generating activities. Limited resources forced WFP to significantly scale back cash-based assistance in urban areas from 326,000 to 49,000 beneficiaries in January 2022, with a reduced entitlement of USD 10 per person/month from USD 12. Starting July 2022, the coverage of this activity will be further reduced. A workshop was conducted with UNDP to support partners on resilience impact monitoring.
- WFP provided supply chain services valued at USD 3,6 million to four partners, mainly UN agencies. As part of its emergency preparedness activities, the Preparedness Project facilitated a Mobile Storage Unit assembly and conducted Warehouse Management Training in Masvingo. These capacity strengthening initiatives targeted government and humanitarian partner officers who are responsible for handling relief items as part of efforts to enhance emergency preparedness.
- Insurance experts from WFP's Headquarter and Regional Bureau in Johannesburg, carried out the review of the weather index insurance product and advised on how to improve insurance-related processes, with support from key stakeholders such as the Climate Change Management Department, the Meteorological Services Department, the Insurance and Pension Commission, and private insurance companies.
- WFP in partnership with the international NGO SNV, has scaled up trainings on how to convert Village Savings and Lending Groups (VSLs) into formal Savings and Credits Cooperative Societies.

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Image: Fish farming at the Njovo Weir in Masvingo, harvesting their fish for consumption and sale. WFP/ Samantha Reinders.
(*) Beneficiary data is tentative and can change following reconciliation.

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

* Under the 2017-2021 CSP

** 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

- The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education and WFP are conducting a Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) study on the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme in Zimbabwe. SABER assesses the state of school feeding and proposes the development of a government-led and owned capacity building plan and road map that clearly identifies the roles of stakeholders and partners to respond to identified gaps and to strengthen national capacities.
- In collaboration with the National University of Science and Technology, WFP supported the provincial dissemination of the national Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) report to eight provinces. The ICA provides an in-depth analysis that overlays trends on food insecurity, nutrition, and shocks combined with analyses of risks, such as land degradation, environmental aspects and contemporary research.
- WFP conducted a Market System Analysis (MSA) in Chipinge district and TRC and its feeder markets, Mutare, Beitbridge, Masvingo, Epworth and Harare South. The MSA aims to provide data needed to inform how WFP and partners can support the Government in addressing potential issues of non-functionality of local markets and food systems through the implementation of Market Development Activities (MDAs). MDAs will be identified to improve market functionality focusing on availability, price and/or quality of food commodities, as well as customer service.

Challenges

- Although needs are increasing, 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.

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.