



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief June 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 June 2022, Zimbabwe recorded 255,586 COVID-19 cases and 5,555 deaths.

Drought is the most significant climate-related risk. It's 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 was added to the list of FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots in May 2022 due to an erratic rainfall season and consequent drop in expected crop production (which declined by 43% as compared to last year and farmers yields have shrunk by half), combined with the effects of persistently high inflation that has hit three-digit levels. Inflation continues on an upward trend - in June, headline inflation closed at 192% up from 132%, food inflation closed at 225% up from 155%, and monthly inflation gained 9.7% from the previous month to close at 30.7%.



Population: **15.6 million**

2020 Human Development Index: **150 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

19 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 1.2 m cash-based transfers made

USD 42 m next six months (July – December 2022) net funding requirements

60,555 people assisted in June 2022

Operational Updates

- On the 1st of July, WFP Zimbabwe transitions its activities into the second-generation country strategic plan (CSP) which runs through 2026. Through this CSP, among other activities, WFP will contribute to building shock-responsive social protection and food systems, assist vulnerable people to pursue their life and livelihood aspirations, and support the Government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- WFP joined the Government of Zimbabwe and UNHCR in commemorating the World Refugee Day on the 20th of June. WFP is assisting 11,682 refugees at the Tongogara Refugee Camp (TRC) through cash-based transfers to meet their immediate food needs.
- A national lessons learnt workshop for lean season programming was conducted in collaboration with the Government stakeholders and cooperating partners. This led to crafting a road map to improve on the lean season assistance programme and the Department of Social Services led Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy programme.
- Through the Urban Social Assistance and Resilience Building programme, 48,873 people received cash-based transfers to meet their immediate food needs in 3 urban domains, and 75,000 people in 23 urban domains participated in income-generating activities. 400 youth have been supported with digital life skills for income generation in Harare and Bulawayo.
- Activities under the Zambuko Livelihoods Initiative were finalized in June. The project has been successful in resilience building among vulnerable smallholder farmers in areas prone to climatic shocks and stressors. Lessons from this successful integration of activities building resilience will be reflected in WFP's future resilience programming.
- The Field Logistics Preparedness Project finalised the refurbishments to a warehouse for the government's National Disaster Management Agency, the Department of Civil Protection (DCP). This will enable DCP to have more and appropriate space for storage of relief items and will also allow improved commodity storage and management.

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Image: A smallholder farmer cultivating beans at Fungai irrigation scheme in Chiredzi. © WFP/Tatenda Macheke
(*) Beneficiary data 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	42 m*

All 6 months under the new CSP

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.

- The project which supported preparedness activities for the Government and partners ended as of 30 June. The coordination of preparedness actions will lie more directly in the hands of government through DCP working with various stakeholders including WFP.

Evidence generation & research

- WFP provided technical and financial support towards the 2022 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee's rural livelihood assessment whose findings were released in June 2022. The findings showed a deterioration of vulnerability and food security situation in the country from a peak of 27% in early 2022 to a projected 38% at the peak of the next hunger season, that is January to March 2023. The national Global Acute Malnutrition prevalence recorded at 7% is above the 5% WHO threshold for a public health emergency, while Mashonaland Central and West had the highest prevalence of 11%.
- WFP is working with partners to finalize the 60 rural district profiles, which provide comprehensive sub district food security information to support programming, targeting and decision making. The profiles are scheduled to be launched during the 3rd quarter of the year.

Challenges

The consumer Council of Zimbabwe reports that the year-on-year inflation for headline and food inflation increased from 96 percent to 132 percent, and from 104 percent to 155 percent respectively between April and May. In addition to inflationary pressures, shortages of some basic food stuffs such as cooking oil and maize meal were noted during WFP's market monitoring; with some formal retailers and wholesalers rationing units per customer or selling exclusively in USD. The continuing increase in the cost of living is likely to negatively impact and exacerbate vulnerability among low-income and resource constrained urban and rural households.

- The new CSP (July 2022- December 2026) which commences in July, provides a roadmap for WFP to consolidate its positioning as a key player in the promotion of shock responsive social protection and sustainable and resilient food systems. This CSP however starts off with 33 percent of its requirements funded for the next six months, which will result in scaled down urban social assistance and a lower than planned lean season response due to funding constraints.

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, UNDP, UK FCDO, US BHA, World Bank.