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 31 July 2022, Zimbabwe recorded 256,378 COVID-19 cases and 5,577 deaths.

Drought is the most significant climate-related risk. Its 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.

The 2022 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee’s Rural and livelihood assessment estimates that, about 30 percent of the rural population is estimated to be food insecure at the start of the lean season (October to December 2022), while 38 percent (3.8 million) are projected to be food insecure during the peak (January to March 2023). The findings show a deteriorating food security situation in the country from a peak of 27% in early 2022.

Operational Updates
- WFP launched its Country Strategic Plan for Zimbabwe, covering the period from July 2022 to 2026. Through this roadmap, WFP will step up its contribution 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 its sustainable development targets. Through resilience-building activities, WFP will continue investing in the humanitarian-development nexus to enhance sustainability. This includes support to smallholder farmers and market actors as well as institutional capacity-strengthening to enhance urban and rural livelihoods.

- In July, WFP and partners supported 12,092 refugees and persons of concern at the Tongogara Refugee Camp through cash-based transfers (11,932) and in-kind food assistance (160) for newly arrived asylum-seekers. Starting in September, WFP plans to provide hybrid rations, consisting of cereal donated by the Government of Zimbabwe and cash to complete the ration.

- The 2022 Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) cycle, which commences in August, will support 82,420 most vulnerable people in seven districts, whose food security and livelihoods are affected by recurrent shocks and stressors, limiting their ability to bounce back quickly. The participating households will work to build and/or rehabilitate assets and receive training, in return for food assistance for six months with the objective to diversify and promote climate resilient agricultural production systems and practices.

- Due to resourcing constraints, WFP was forced to stop delivering urban cash-based assistance in Harare South and Masvingo in July. The Urban Cash Assistance programme provided double disbursements in June covering June and July cycles in these districts, to cushion households from inflation. This life-saving programme faces critical funding challenges and will only be able to reach some 10,000 beneficiaries in Chiredzi in the month of August.

In Numbers

- **15 mt** of food assistance distributed
- **USD 178,950** cash-based transfers made
- **USD 41 m** next six months (August ’22 – January ’23) net funding requirements
- **12,092 people assisted** in July 2022

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WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>594 m</td>
<td>61m</td>
<td>41m</td>
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**Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food.**

**Strategic outcome 1:** Food- and nutrition-insecure populations in targeted rural and urban areas meet their food and nutrition needs at all times, including during crises.

**Activities:**
- Provide unconditional humanitarian cash and food transfers to food insecure people in targeted areas while supporting national institutions in delivering social and humanitarian assistance.

**Evidence generation & research**

- WFP participated in a workshop organised by the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to provide guidance and support in finalising the Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy manual. This manual will be used to maintain standards across districts on the implementation of the Government's social assistance flagship programme during the upcoming lean season.

**Challenges**

- Although needs are increasing, funding to WFP in Zimbabwe is sharply declining, forcing it 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.

- Zimbabwe continues to face macro-economic challenges as annual inflation increased to 257% in July, while the local ZWL currency further depreciated against the USD and the gap between the official and unofficial exchange rates continued to widen. This is increasing the cost of living and making it more unaffordable for low-income, vulnerable households.

**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.