



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief August 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 August 2022, Zimbabwe recorded 256,726 COVID-19 cases and 5,596 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 percent in early 2022.



Population: **15.2 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **146 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

15 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 398,696 cash-based transfers made

USD 32 m next six months (September '22 – February '23) net funding requirements

22,061 people assisted in August 2022

Operational Updates

- Through the urban social assistance and resilience building programme, WFP and partners assisted 10,085 people, with double rations – covering their August and September entitlements. In Chiredzi, the programme also partners with the Stopping Abuse and Female Exploitation (SAFE) programme which promotes prevention of gender-based violence through social and economic empowerment of participants, while also providing referral pathways for victims.
- WFP assisted 11,976 refugees residing at Tongogara Refugee Camp, (11,830 through cash and 176 through in-kind food assistance) in August. Fewer refugees were reached than in July due to their mobile nature and continued use of biometric verification, which reduces third party collections.
- WFP provided climate services training through the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) to 70 experts at national level and 180 Agritex extension officers as part of the training of trainers at district level. The PICSA approach, pioneered by the University of Reading, enables farmers to make informed decisions based on locally specific weather and climate information and participatory decision-making tools. Trained ward-based extension officers will cascade the learnings to 6,250 farmers in Masvingo, Mwenezi, Rushinga, Chipinge and Mwenezi districts, while also working with farmers to analyze historical climate information and use participatory tools to develop and choose crops and livestock.
- WFP, the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development and FAO supported 5,200 smallholder farmers in Chiredzi and Mangwe districts to grow drought tolerant crops through climate smart practices. The project transforms production, processing, storage, distribution and use of produce by also complementing Government efforts to reduce losses through education and promoting post-production technologies.

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Image: Violet Chitiki (42), proudly shows some detergents she is producing and retailing in Chinhoi © WFP/Tinashe Mubaira

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
594 m	61m	32m

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.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food.

Strategic outcome 2: By 2026, food-insecure households in urban areas meet their food and nutrition needs through resilient livelihoods.

- Activities:**
- Provide skills training, tools, and infrastructure to vulnerable urban households for enhanced livelihoods and entrepreneurship.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

Strategic outcome 3: By 2026, targeted rural populations achieve climate resilient livelihoods, sustainable management of natural resources and enhanced participation in local markets and value chains

- Activities:**
- Provide conditional cash and food transfers along with training and tools to rural communities in conjunction with technical assistance for community members and national and subnational authorities.
 - Provide technical assistance to farmer organizations, market actors and national and subnational food quality assurance institutions and empower rural consumers with the aim of strengthening “farm-to-fork” food value chains.

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: By 2026, national and subnational institutions in Zimbabwe have strengthened capacities to develop, coordinate and implement well-informed, effective and equitable actions to achieve food and nutrition security

- Activities:**
- Provide technical assistance to national and subnational social protection and emergency preparedness and response institutions in order to improve social and humanitarian assistance preparedness, planning and response.
 - Provide strategic, technical and coordination assistance to national and subnational institutions in support of well-informed and capacitated zero hunger actions.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian and development actors in Zimbabwe can implement their programmes and provide support to their beneficiaries in an efficient, effective and reliable way at all times, including during crises

- Activities:**
- Provide bilateral supply chain and other services to humanitarian and development actors on demand.
 - Provide mandated services through the logistics cluster to Government and humanitarian actors when the cluster is activated

- WFP supported the updating of the Government’s Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy and provided technical support towards the harmonisation of targeting and implementation approaches. During the 2022 joint national lean season inception workshop, which was led by the Government, WFP also provided guidance on the practical implementation of the manual. The Government and partners, including WFP, will provide food assistance from October to March 2022 in all the 60 rural districts to reach 3.8 million people at peak.

Evidence generation & research

- WFP provided financial and technical support to the Meteorological Services Department towards the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum exercise which culminated in the National Climate Outlook Forum where the seasonal rainfall forecast for the 2022/23 rainfall season was presented.
- The National Climate Outlook Forum rainfall forecast for the upcoming 2022/23 rainfall season shows high chances of normal to above-normal rainfall for the southern parts of the country throughout the season. However, the northern districts, which are highly crop producing, have high chances of normal to below normal rainfall for the period October to December. If prolonged, episodes of low rainfall could impact on the start of the season and crop performance during the period and may lead to compromised harvest.
- The food and nutrition situation in the country deteriorated during the post-harvest period signalling an early start to lean season in some areas. WFP’s HungerMap Live and FEWSNET’s IPC-compatible analysis indicates an increase in the number of households experiencing insufficient food consumption. These findings are in line with the rural ZimVAC 2022 projections which estimates an increase in food insecurity during the coming lean season period.

Challenges

- Hikes in the price of foods and other basic commodities harshly affect city dwellers who rely on markets to cover most of their needs. Yet, WFP’s social cash assistance in urban areas is only able to reach a residual caseload of roughly 20,000 people as a result of funding constraints (down from 49,000 in the first half of the year and 360,000 last year).

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.