



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief October 2022

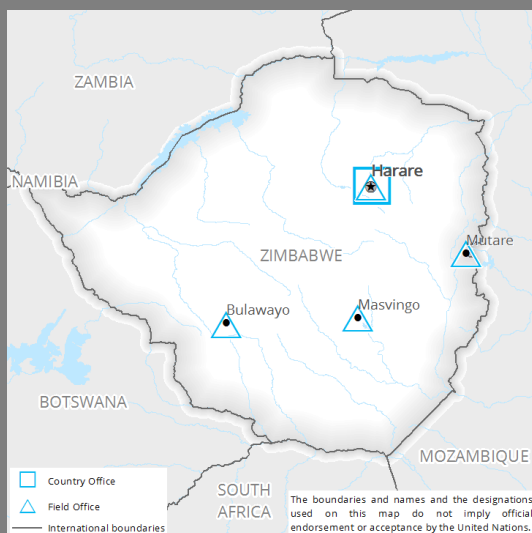


Operational Context

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 September 2022, Zimbabwe recorded 257,465 COVID-19 cases and 5,602 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.



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

42 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 406,086 cash-based transfers made

USD 58 m next six months (November '22 – April '23) net funding requirements

33,550 people assisted in October 2022 through in-kind and cash transfers

Operational Updates

- WFP started its lean season response in Hwedza in October and will scale up to cover the remaining target districts to serve 559,328, people in November. Double distributions will be conducted in November and February, with a single distribution in January, to deal with access challenges during the rainy season. The lean season response fits into the national Food Deficit Mitigation Programme, whereby the Government plans to cover 52 of the 60 rural districts reaching 2.1 million people with maize grain and WFP eight districts reaching 700,000 people with cereals, pulses and vegetable oil. Together, the Government and WFP will reach all 3.8 million people projected to be cereal insecure by the rural analysis of the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC).
- Following the presentation of seasonal forecasts by WFP and the Meteorological Services Department, agro-advisories and forecasts were disseminated to farmers for their consideration in planning and farming decision-making for the 2022/2023 agricultural season. Zimbabwe has high probability of La Niña conditions between October and December. During this period, southern parts of the country have high chances of receiving normal to above normal rainfall, while the northern part faces high chances of below normal rainfall for the same period.
- Under the refugee support programme, WFP is close to finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Zimbabwe for a donation of 2,167 mt of grain which will enable the implementation of a hybrid basket consisting of cereal and cash at the Tongogara Refugee Camp.
- Gweru's City Council, in partnership with WFP the Swiss Development Cooperation and Welthungerhilfe (WHH), is introducing a system that will ensure organised and controlled urban farming. Gweru's Urban Agriculture Policy is among the first-of-its-kind in the country.

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Image: Cash-based assistance enables vulnerable city dwellers to meet their immediate food needs. © WFP/Maria Gallar

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	72.6 m	58 m

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

- At a national urban preparedness workshop, WFP presented the findings of a study conducted in Gweru, Mutare and Epworth, showing that more cash-based social protection and resilience-building activities are required to cushion the urban poor from shocks. Stakeholders proposed strategies for strengthening the coordination for urban preparedness as well as funding for disaster responses in urban areas.
- WFP joined the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO at the Chibero College of Agriculture in Norton to commemorate World Food Day, which this year ran under the theme ‘Leave no one behind: Better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life’.

Evidence generation & research

- The first joint monthly monitoring on the impact of the Ukraine crisis in Zimbabwe was published, combining data on food security, market conditions and migration. With support from the UN SDG Fund, WFP is partnering with IOM and FAO to analyse and monitor the effects of the conflict across a number of sectors and to develop an anticipatory action strategy with a focus on preparedness for global shocks.
- WFP conducted consultations for Seasonal Livelihoods Planning (SLP) in Mwenezi and Chiredzi. SLP supports tailored response plans at sub-national levels by linking the national-level Integrated Context Analysis with communities and partners to deliver complementary programmes. SLP is a tool to identify short and long-term interventions in the arena of resilience-building, through an integral and layered approach.
- In close collaboration with the Food and Nutrition Council, WFP is completing the review of the 60 district profiles, which provide comprehensive food security information to support programming, targeting and decision-making. Their release is expected late November.

Challenges

- Funding to WFP in Zimbabwe has declined in the last year, despite increasing food insecurity. WFP faces critical pipeline shortfalls and has been forced to reduce caseloads and entitlements. Only 33% of the funding needs for the next six months are resourced.

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.