



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief

November 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 November 2022, Zimbabwe recorded 259,218 COVID-19 cases and 5,620 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

9,824 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 428,592 cash-based transfers made

USD 58.6 m next six months (December '22 – May '23) net funding requirements

486,608 people assisted in November 2022 through in-kind and cash transfers

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP reached 469,835 people under the lean season response and finalized the distribution cycle early December, serving a total 559,328 people with emergency food assistance. Double distributions were conducted and are also planned for February, with a single distribution to be carried out 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 2.1million 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 a review and update on the state of school feeding in Zimbabwe, using the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) methodology, WFP worked with the Government to unpack the procurement rules and regulations in order to unblock obstacles to successful food purchases for school feeding by subnational authorities. The SABER methodology examines the policy framework, the financial capacity, the institutional capacity and coordination, the design and implementation, and the community participation in school feeding initiatives. In Zimbabwe, the Government is looking into rolling-out a home-grown approach to school feeding.
- Gweru's City Council in partnership with WFP, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and the Agricultural Advisory and Rural Development Services (ARDAS), aired information on the new urban agricultural policy through local radio stations. Interactive sessions are planned in December, to clarify any doubts that residents may have on the application of this policy, which is among the first of its kind in Zimbabwe.

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Image: From left, Acting USAID Mission Director Mr. Ramses Gauthier, World Vision National Director Mr. Assan Golowa and WFP Country Director and Representative Ms. Francesca Erdelmann during a lean season distribution in Buhera. 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	75.1m	58.6 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

- ARDAS officers shared seasonal forecasts to 7,200 farmers and carried out trainings on the interpretation of weather and climate information for informed decision-making, using the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture Approach (PICSA) across five districts (Mwenezi, Masvingo, Chipinge, Rushinga and Mangwe). Pioneered by the University of Reading, PICSA enables farmers to make informed decisions based on locally specific weather and climate information and participatory decision-making tools.

Evidence generation & research

- The food security and nutrition situation in the country continues to deteriorate, which is typical as the lean season progresses. [WFP’s HungerMap LIVE](#) indicates an increase in the number of people living in rural and urban areas with insufficient food consumption to 5.9 million and those resorting to crisis and above food-based coping, which is higher than normal for this time of the year (7.7 million). These findings corroborate FEWSNET’s analysis, which predicted an increase in the number of people in rural areas experiencing Crisis phase (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes, particularly in deficit-producing areas in the south of the country.
- The Food and Nutrition Council is planning for an urban livelihoods assessment (urban ZimVAC), to be carried out in January. The last urban ZimVAC was conducted in December 2021, however the report has yet to be formally endorsed.
- WFP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) the International Organization for Migration (IOM) released their [second report on the Impact of the war in Ukraine on Zimbabwe](#), funded by the UN Sustainable Development Goals Fund. This joint analysis will contribute to generate critical information to guide the development of an anticipatory action strategy that presents short- to long-term policy and programmatic recommendations, which will be led by the Government of Zimbabwe.

Challenges

- Zimbabwe continues to be among the 20 countries where food insecurity is increasing, according to the [Hunger Hotspots list](#) due to erratic rainfall and consequent drop in expected crop production in 2022, combined with the effects of persistently high inflation, which is the highest in the world. This is happening against the backdrop of limited resources for life-saving activities, particularly in urban areas. Funding prospects for 2023 are also dire.

Donors

Canada, China, WFP’s Emerging Donors Matching Fund, European Commission, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA, Zimbabwe