



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief

December 2022



In Numbers

2,104 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 420,627 cash-based transfers made

USD 52.3 m next six months (January '23 – June '23) net funding requirements

121,693 people assisted December 2022 through in-kind and cash transfers

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 December 2022, Zimbabwe recorded 259,947 COVID-19 cases and 5,635 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 30 percent of the rural population were estimated to be food insecure at the start of the lean season (October to December 2022, while 38 percent (3.8 million) were projected to be food insecure during the peak (January to March 2023). The findings show a deteriorated 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**

Operational Updates

- To alleviate food insecurity during the lean season, WFP and its partners reached 559,000 people under the November-December distribution cycle. WFP complements the national Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy (FDMS) and distributes food to vulnerable communities between October and March. This lean season, the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MPSLSW) is delivering assistance in 52 of the 60 rural and districts reaching 3.1 million people with maize grain, while WFP provides food assistance in Buhera, Hwedza, Mudzi, Bikita, Chivi, Nkayi, Mangwe, and Mt. Darwin, reaching 700,000 people with cereals, pulses and vegetable oil at peak. WFP is also leveraging on the lean season response's broad geographic coverage to raise awareness on healthy eating habits and to promote nutrition among communities attending distributions.
- [The MPSLSW and WFP launched the Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy Manual](#). Through the adoption of this manual, the Government of Zimbabwe aligns with global standards on food-based social protection networks and ensures coherence and alignment of all participating actors to the FDMS. Over the last two years, the Government and WFP have harmonized their targeting approaches to respond to food insecurity during the lean season. The FDMS has also adapted the entitlement from household-based to individual-based and distributes rations as per actual household size. Further coordination is currently sought on beneficiary data management.
- Following a review and update on the state of school feeding in Zimbabwe, using the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) methodology, WFP started working 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. This work continues in 2023.

Contact info: Maria Gallar, maria.gallar@wfp.org
Country Director: Francesca Erdelmann
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/zimbabwe

Photo: Two women carrying a bag of grain at a food distribution point in Mt Darwin. WFP/Tatenda Macheka

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	84.4 m	52.3 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

- WFP assisted 20,000 people with cash transfers in Mzilikazi and Chiredzi. The Urban Cash Assistance and Resilience Building Programme combines emergency cash assistance and nutritional support for the extremely poor, entrepreneurship opportunities for vulnerable people and participatory disaster preparedness that brings together the authorities and citizen groups. WFP also contributes to generate evidence on the impact of cash-based assistance on gendered power relations within households and domestic violence.
- To help improve resilience-building activities in urban spaces, [WFP and its partners jointly reflected on the experiences gained throughout 2022](#), across 23 urban domains and reaching 130,000 vulnerable people. The exercise highlighted the importance of community-driven planning, as well as of designing pathways for entrepreneurs and participants to develop sustainable businesses. The rapidly changing dynamics in cities remains a challenge, as changes to the programmes are continuously required.

Evidence generation & research

- Between July and December 2022, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and WFP analysed the [impact of the war in Ukraine on food systems and migration patterns in Zimbabwe](#). The conflict has had direct effects on increasing food and fuel prices and disrupting trade, which has led to fiscal tightening and a widening of inequalities and governance issues. WFP also noted that the uncertainty and halting to the Black Sea Grain initiative has had an effect on global wheat prices, which could in turn affect other grain prices if not resolved.

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 through ECHO, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Zimbabwe