



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief

## February 2023



### 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 28 February 2023, Zimbabwe recorded 264,149 COVID-19 cases and 5,669 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**

### In Numbers

**7,586 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 314,456** cash-based transfers made

**USD 32m** next six months (March-August 2023) net funding requirements

**733,700** people assisted in February 2023 through in-kind and cash transfers

### Operational Updates

- WFP completed the 2022/2023 lean season response, reaching a peak 702,227 beneficiaries in February and early March across Buhera, Hwedza, Mudzi, Bikita, Chivi, Nkayi, Mangwe and Mt. Darwin. In anticipation of access challenges during the rainy season, WFP conducted double distributions of cereal, pulses and vegetable oil. In a year marked by climatic shocks and price hikes, the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MPSLSW) and WFP targeted all 3.8 million people projected to have insufficient access to cereals by the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (rural ZimVAC 2022).

Through the adoption of a Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy manual, the MPSLSW and WFP aligned with global standards on food-based social assistance and will be able to ensure coherence and coordination of all participating actors to emergency food assistance during times of food crisis.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Germany and Japan supported WFP's lean season assistance, which was implemented by World Vision, AquaCulture and Caritas.

- WFP introduced nutrition cash top-ups in its Urban Social Protection and Resilience Building Programme. Nutritionally vulnerable groups- pregnant and lactating women, children under five, the elderly and the chronically ill - will receive additional USD 5 per person per month to improve their dietary diversity. This entitlement allows households to purchase additional products such as fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, and eggs to complement the basic food basket.
- Following the procurement of a USD 11 million Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) Replica policy for Zimbabwe in 2022 by WFP, a simulation exercise was conducted to plan and test the government, Start Network (an international network of NGOs) and WFP's operational plans, that will be activated if an insurance payout is triggered.

Photo: A smallholder farmer in Rushinga, attending to her millet field. AP/Tsvangirayi Mukwazhi

# 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	32 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

- In collaboration with national and district authorities and the National University of Science and Technology, Seasonal Livelihood Programming consultations were conducted in six urban domains and two rural districts between January and February. These consultations add value to planning processes in resilience building through the analysis of seasonality of shocks, livelihoods, vulnerability profiles and partnerships which lay a foundation for the design of relevant programmes. They are conducted together with the communities with the aim of generating context-specific evidence to inform and adjust humanitarian and development interventions, enhancing impacts.

## Evidence generation & research

- In January, WFP handed over 200 android tablets to the Government, on behalf of the African Risk Capacity, to support the collection of food security vulnerability data to inform preparedness and response activities to climatic shocks.
- Preliminary findings of the 2023 First Round Crop and Livestock assessment led by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water Climate and Rural Development, anticipate that the country will produce maize in surplus of at least 800,000 metric tons above the national requirement of 2.3 metric tonnes. However, crops across districts in agro-ecological regions IV and V have been affected by poor rainfall distribution that can result in below-normal harvests.

## Challenges

- With the end of the lean season, food security is expected to improve in rural areas during the second quarter of the year. However, persistently high inflation and a weakening currency continue to affect access to food especially among the urban populace in the country. The FNC-led 2022 Urban ZimVAC will provide insights on the food security situation among Zimbabwean city dwellers in the upcoming weeks. These results will come in the face of dire funding for both social protection and resilience building activities in urban areas.
- WFP continues to face critical pipeline shortfalls and has been forced to drastically reduce caseloads and entitlements. Only 47 percent of the USD 61 million funding requirement to sustain relief and resilience activities over the next six months is resourced.

## 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