



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief April 2023

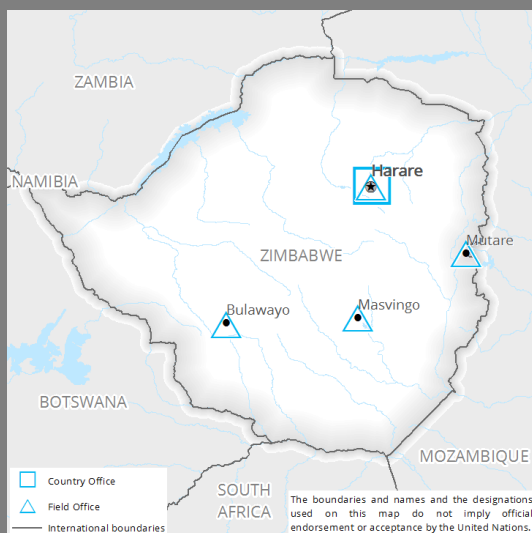


Operational Context

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 30 April 2023, Zimbabwe recorded 264,683 COVID-19 cases and 5,686 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 (ZimVAC) Rural and Livelihood assessment estimated that 30 percent of the rural population were cereal insecure at the start of the lean season (October to December 2022), while 38 percent (3.8 million) were cereal insecure during the peak (January to March 2023). Upcoming ZimVACs will provide further detail on the food security situation in rural and urban areas.



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

2.8 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 311,514 cash-based transfers made

USD 21 m next six months (May - October 2023) net funding requirements

21,739 people assisted in April 2023 through in-kind and cash transfers

Operational Updates

- WFP and partners worked with local authorities, communities, and local government departments on Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP) consultations across six urban and rural districts in April. SLPs support tailored response plans at sub-national levels by linking the national-level context analysis with communities and partners to deliver complementary programmes. They identify short and long-term interventions suited to specific contexts and inform the design, planning and linkages between activities. WFP has supported 15 SLP consultations since the start of the year.
- Due to technical and coordination challenges, WFP only assisted 19,700 of 27,300 people targeted to receive cash-based assistance in urban areas (72 percent) in April. Those affected will receive their entitlements during the early May. Contributions from European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) have allowed WFP and partners to consistently provide support in three urban domains (Chiredzi, Mzilikazi and Mutare) since the start of the year.
- Through its urban resilience programme, WFP is conducting value chain mapping and analysis in 10 urban domains. The findings will inform the key entry points for the urban resilience programming through identification of the most viable and scalable income-generating activities and skills development requirements per domain. Starting May, WFP will scale down its urban resilience-building programme in Zimbabwean cities from 13 to 3 domains, due to funding challenges.
- Preparations are ongoing to kick-start Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities in May, across six districts. WFP's Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) addresses immediate needs through food distributions, while investing in productive assets that improve long-term food security and resilience, including soil and water conservation. Participants are also trained on insurance and financial inclusion, food processing and connected to nearby markets. The community centered approach promotes nutrition, gender equality, and social protection.

Photo: A smallholder farmer in Masvingo shows part of her round nuts harvest. WFP/Samantha Reinders

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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	111 m	21 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

Evidence generation & research

- In collaboration with the Agricultural Advisory and Rural Development Services (ARDAS), WFP rolled out trainings of ward-based extension officers in all the 60 rural districts on the harmonised markets monitoring methodology and tools. The trainings will culminate in a more extensive rural markets data set, key in understanding the functionality of rural markets. Data collection under this methodology and coverage commenced in April 2023.
- WFP provided technical and financial support towards the preparations for the 2023 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) Rural and Livelihood assessment, coordinated by the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC). This analysis will quantify the number of people in rural areas expected to be cereal insecure in 2023 and early 2024, as well as their distribution across the country. Data collection will take place in May.
- According to WFP’s HungerMap LIVE monitoring platform, 3.9 million people were estimated to be facing insufficient food consumption in April. This tool collects data from rural and urban households through mobile surveys on a number of indicators including food consumption patterns and coping strategies. All provinces experienced a decrease in the prevalence of insufficient food consumption within the 3 months under consideration, except for Bulawayo and Harare which increased by 10 and 5 percentage points respectively.

Challenges

- As a result of funding constraints, WFP will not be able to operate at scale in 2023, yet it must continue to ensure added value: Activities with potential for greater impact and replicability are being prioritized and layering strategies pursued (geographical concentration and sequencing of activities). These measures also seek to ensure WFP and partners capacity to support national social protection systems (e.g., gradual alignment to international standards of the Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy and the Harmonized Social Transfers Programme).
- Only 33 percent of the USD 62 million funding requirement to sustain relief and resilience activities over the next six months is resourced. Funding gaps are being faced across lifesaving and resilience building activities, putting at risk previous gains

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