



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief

May 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 31 May 2023, Zimbabwe recorded 265,074 COVID-19 cases and 5,695 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 2023 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (ZimVAC) Urban Livelihood assessment estimates that 29 percent of the urban population in 2023 (1.5 million people) is food insecure. The Rural ZimVAC will provide further detail on the food security situation in rural 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

**15.8 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 942,396** cash-based transfers made

**USD 33 m** next six months (June - November 2023) net funding requirements

**40,215** people assisted in May 2023 through in-kind and cash transfers

## Operational Updates

- WFP in Zimbabwe is providing strategic and technical assistance to the Government of Zimbabwe in support of zero hunger actions. As part of this thrust, in May, WFP handed over 635 tablet devices to the Agricultural Advisory and Rural Development Services department. These tablets are part of support towards the digitalisation of data collection and extension services to improve efficiency and accuracy. This investment will help close the missing link between rural and urban farmers, and the extension workers.
- Through its urban cash transfers programme, WFP and partners assisted 28,000 people through Mukuru and Western Union across three domains, namely Mutare, Chiredzi and Mzilikazi (this includes provision of double disbursements in April that included May entitlements). Of these, 3,623 children under the age of five and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers received an additional USD 5 per month as a nutrition top-up ration. This intervention increases access to nutritious foods, which is critical to the health and wellbeing of these vulnerable groups.
- During the month of May, WFP launched Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities that will support 75,000 people in six districts: Chiredzi, Kariba, Masvingo, Mwenezi, Rushinga and Zvishavane. This programme is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of Japan. FFA is leveraged as an entry point for the integration of resilience programming, where the same beneficiaries also benefit from multiple activities in a sequenced manner, to improve the communities' resilience to shocks and stressors.
- In May, WFP provided technical and financial support to Gweru City and Vungu Rural District Councils to develop their Disaster Risk Management (DRM) plans, which involved rigorous hazard mapping and prioritisation, development of multi-hazards risk management plan, contingency planning, resource mapping and budgeting. This DRM planning workshop, supported by government departments, local authorities, United Nations and NGOs, also identified strategies for strengthening coordination for effective disaster risk reduction and management.

Contact info: Maria Gallar, [maria.gallar@wfp.org](mailto:maria.gallar@wfp.org)  
Country Director: Francesca Erdelmann  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/zimbabwe](http://www.wfp.org/countries/zimbabwe)

Photo: USAID acting Mission Director Ramses Gauthier and WFP's Deputy Country Director Ms Christine Mendes, during a launch of USAID'S USD8.7m contribution to WFP's FFA programme. 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	115m	33 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 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

- WFP provided financial and technical support towards a “lessons learned” workshop that reflected on the national state of disaster preparedness for the previous lean season that ended in March 2023. Together, government officials from line ministries, agencies and departments, local authorities, traditional leadership, private sector, United Nations, and NGOs identified best practices, gaps and areas for further improvement and investment which will guide deliberations at the next national contingency planning process scheduled for the last quarter of 2023.
- The 2023 ZimVAC Urban Livelihoods assessment findings show that close to 30% of the city dwellers are unable to meet their own food consumption needs, due to limited livelihood opportunities and the effects of a highly volatile economic environment. To cope, more than one quarter of the urban families receive some kind of support, largely from relatives (11%), the Government (9.2%), remittances (6.7%) and UN/NGOs (5.3%).

## Challenges

Funding challenges have forced WFP to scale back the urban cash assistance and resilience building programme from a peak of 22 domains in 2022 to only three, in 2023. Of the estimated 1.5 million food insecure urban people (urban ZimVAC 2023), WFP is currently supporting 27,000 people with cash-based assistance and around 30,000 through resilience-building activities. A recently approved USAID contribution will enable WFP and partners to scale-up urban resilience to three additional domains, reaching 10,500 people more. Vulnerable population in urban domains that are no longer covered by the urban cash assistance and resilience-building activities will likely resort to negative coping strategies to make up for the unavailability of support.

- In 2023, WFP will not be able to operate at scale, 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). WFP is working with the Government to inform and enhance national programmes to ensure sustainability and national ownership of programmes.

## 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