



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief August 2023



Operational Context

Zimbabwe is a landlocked, 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 August 2023, Zimbabwe recorded 265,721 COVID-19 cases and 5,715 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 and Rural Livelihood assessments estimate that 29 percent of the urban population in 2023 (1.5 million people) are food insecure, with a further 19 percent of the people living in rural areas (estimated at 1.9 million people) are projected to be food insecure from October through December 2023, before peaking at 26 percent (2.7 million people) in the first quarter of 2024.



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

16 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 471,395 cash-based transfers made

USD 68 m next six months (September 23 - February 24) net funding requirements

22,421 people assisted in August 2023 through in-kind food and cash transfers

Operational Updates

- WFP is utilising its urban cash assistance as a platform to support gender transformative actions through the Stopping Abuse and Female Exploitation (SAFE) programme to prevent violence against women and girls in Zimbabwe. WFP partnered with Musasa Project to provide post gender violence care services to survivors of gender-based violence. The services include counselling, legal protection services, referrals to higher levels of care, and emergency transport to access specialized services. Services are provided through different facilities including a static and a mobile one-stop centre, and a tollfree line.
- WFP continually works to provide technical assistance to social protection and emergency preparedness and response institutions in Zimbabwe, aimed at enhancing the social and humanitarian framework. WFP participated in a post payment verification exercise conducted by the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare in Umzingwane district under the Harmonized Social Cash Transfer Programme (HSCT). This provided an opportunity for WFP to better understand the HSCT programme and share experiences on the delivery of cash in urban areas.
- WFP collaborated with UNICEF, FAO and the Ministry of Health and Child Care to strengthen the nutrition emergency preparedness and response to national, provincial and district nutritionists. Trainings were undertaken to ensure better integration of nutrition into emergency programming. The sessions culminated in the development of a draft National Plan for Nutrition in Emergencies.
- WFP is strengthening the communities' resilience to future shocks and stressors through provision of tailored trainings and the creation of productive assets, while simultaneously providing food assistance to address immediate food needs. In August, WFP carried out double distributions of food to targeted communities.

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
593 m	120 m	68 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

- WFP is working with the Government and partners to track the El Niño weather phenomenon, which is predicted in the forthcoming October 2023 to March 2024 rainfall season. The current seasonal forecasts indicate a 90 percent likelihood for the country to experience the El Niño, which started in June 2023 and is likely to persist until March 2024, with an 84 percent chance of exceeding moderate strength (CPC, 2023). In Southern Africa, the phenomenon typically leads to below normal rainfall and high temperatures and was last experienced between 2014 and 2016. The southern parts of the country are likely to be worst affected including Masvingo, Matabeleland south, Midlands and south of Manicaland provinces. Given the high reliance on rainfed agriculture by communal farmers in the country, this could lead to low production and an increase in cereal insecurity.
- The 2023 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (ZimVAC) rural livelihoods assessment estimated that about 26 percent of the rural population (approximately 2.7 million people) will be cereal insecure during the peak of the hunger season (January to March 2024), while during the current consumption period (July to September 2023) about 11 percent (1.13 million rural people) are estimated to be cereal insecure. This is in addition to the 29 percent of urban households (1.5 million people) who were estimated to be cereal insecure by the 2023 ZimVAC Urban livelihoods assessment.

Challenges

- The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and WFP are gearing up for the lean season. WFP consistently supports Zimbabwe's efforts to address food insecurity during the lean months and has been covering an average of 30 percent of the national assistance programme over the last 10 years. With available resources to date, WFP will only be able to complement the national Food Deficit Mitigation Programme reaching some 250,000 people out of the joint needs plan total of 1.9 million food insecure people (13 percent), between January and March 2024.
- The forecasted El Niño stresses the need to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities to prepare for, absorb, and bounce back from climate induced stressors and shocks. In the absence of a large funding envelope, WFP is preparing an El Niño mitigation and anticipation plan, prioritizing limited existing funding to implement key protective measures.

Donors

Canada, WFP's Emerging Donors Matching Fund, European Commission through ECHO, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Zimbabwe