



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief

## December 2023



## In Numbers

338 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 456,852 cash-based transfers

USD 43 m next six months (February – July 2024) net funding requirements

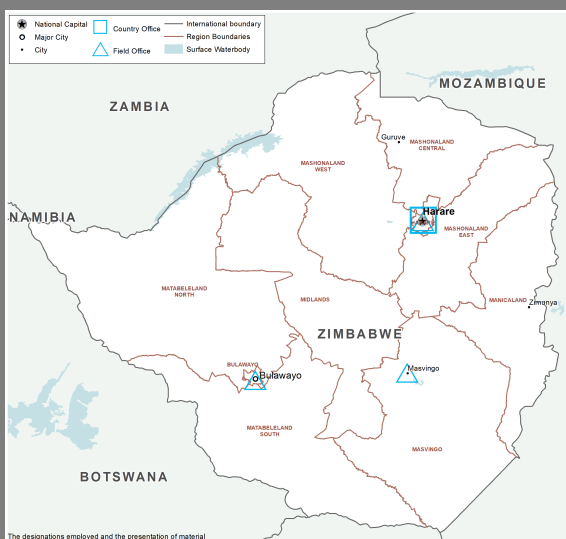
49,232 people assisted in December 2023 through in-kind food and cash transfers

## 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. Zimbabwe recorded its first Cholera outbreak of 2023 in February. As of 31 December, it has recorded 16,252 suspected and confirmed cases and 320 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

## Operational Updates

- The Zimbabwean government, in collaboration with WFP launched a food deficit mitigation/lean season assistance programme to help vulnerable communities during the peak hunger season, between January and March 2024. WFP with support from USAID and multilateral funds will complement government's efforts to reach 2.7 million food insecure people in rural areas by providing food assistance to some 265,000 people within this period. WFP will also provide technical assistance for the FDMS implementation in five districts, enhancing joint programming for food assistance to vulnerable communities.
- WFP facilitated the distribution of cash to 26,000 individuals in Chiredzi and Mzilikazi through its urban cash assistance programme. Additionally, WFP engaged in planning meetings with local authorities for the upcoming urban cash assistance programme in Caledonia and Chinhoyi, in the most food insecure locations within the two domains.
- WFP is implementing the Stopping Abuse and Female Exploitation (SAFE) program alongside its Urban Social Assistance programme. Activities aim to prevent gender-based violence through empowerment and a transformative curriculum while responding to GBV through a referral pathway. In December, the third cohort benefiting from Urban CBT and SAFE programming graduated in Chiredzi. Preliminary findings show that participating households have reduced food insecurity, decreased intimate partner violence (IPV), and improved household cohesion.
- Through the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA), weather and climatic advisories and warnings were disseminated to over 20,000 farmers in Mwenezi, Masvingo, Chipinge, Mangwe, Binga, Hwange districts through a variety of channels, including WhatsApp, radio and face to face engagements. These advisories assist farmers in making informed decisions on their farming activities.

Photo: Agritex Officer Lindiwe Ngwenya shares climate information and advisories with Annah Dube. WFP/Tatenda Macheka

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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)
593 m	134 m	43 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

- Under WFP's El Niño Mitigation efforts, 13,200 households in Hwange, Binga, and Chiredzi received agricultural inputs for one plot, complementing the government's climate-smart agriculture (Pfumvudza) programme. The input package included cowpeas, fertilisers, lime, and dimethoate insecticide.

## Evidence generation & research

- In the last quarter of 2023, the Food and Nutrition Council and WFP carried out research focusing on food and nutrition insecurity vulnerability and resilience capacity of households with people living with HIV (HPLHIV) in rural and urban Zimbabwe. The trend analysis of 2019 – 2023 revealed that HPLHIV are at a disadvantage concerning social protection and are not a priority in most social protection programmes. Results also indicated that receiving social protection from the government or development partners was associated with improvements in food and nutrition security outcomes. Therefore, social protection purposively targeted at HPLHIV can help improve their food and nutrition security outcomes.
- To strengthen LSA beneficiary targeting, WFP, in partnership with the Food and Nutrition Council, conducted further analysis of the ZimVAC data to identify characteristics of food-insecure households. The identified indicators were used during household ranking and profiling.
- WFP disseminated the Seasonal Livelihood Programming findings in Chiredzi and Epworth and provided training to local government on how to incorporate the findings into local-level planning and budgets.

## Challenges

- Limited funding forecast for food assistance for assets (FFA) and urban resilience activities will impact on previous investments made on resilience activities in both the Rural and Urban areas. In Zimbabwe, WFPs resilience activities are integrated- emphasizing layering of activities to provide incremental support to enhance communities' capacities to mitigate and adapt to future shocks and stressors.

## Donors

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