



# WFP Zimbabwe

## Country Brief

### January 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## In Numbers

1,176 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 464,566 cash-based transfers

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

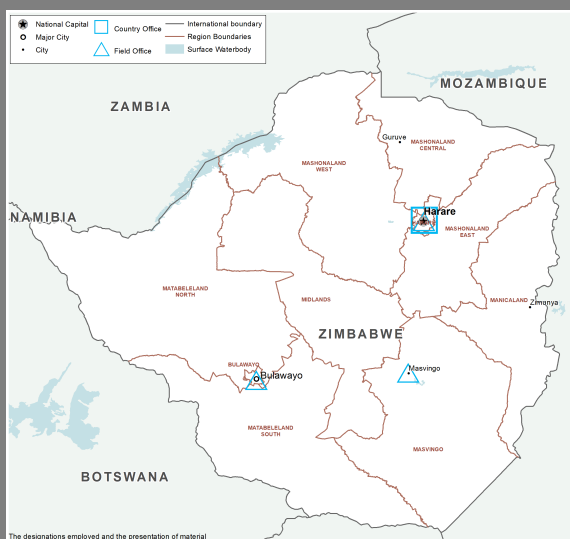
163,498 people assisted in January 2024 through in-kind food and cash transfers

## 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 January, Zimbabwe has recorded 24,222 suspected and confirmed cases and 487 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.



## Operational Updates

- In January WFP completed the Lean Season Assistance (LSA) inception meetings, beneficiary registration, data cleanup, and commenced the 2023/24 LSA distribution cycle. In January, food assistance reached 125,683 individuals in Buhera, Mangwe, Chivi, and Mwenezi.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC), banners and posters promoting cholera behaviour change were developed as a preventive measure against the spread of cholera during food distributions. Additional guidance on cholera mitigation measures was also developed in consultation with the World Health Organization (WHO) and distributed to field offices, cooperating partners, and staff, with a focus on cholera prevention at food distribution points and measures to be taken in the advent of suspected cholera cases.
- WFP field teams provided technical assistance through inception trainings to social development officers and enumerators from the department of social development as well as district development committee members in Umguza, Masvingo, Kariba, Mt Darwin and Bikita.
- The urban cash assistance programme reached 25,414 people in Mzilikazi and Chiredzi with cash disbursements of USD 13 per person. Nutrition cash top-ups of USD 5 per person per month were also provided to pregnant and breastfeeding women (565), children under 5 years (2,680), adolescent girls (3,617), and chronically ill persons (514) in the same domains.
- In January, financial service providers (FSPs) participated in training sessions focused on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Community Feedback Mechanisms (CFM). This training is an integral part of the WFP onboarding process for the implementation of the urban cash assistance programme in new domains.
- WFP held inception meetings in three domains (Chiredzi, Epworth, Chinhoyi), receiving support from USAID to kickstart the second phase of the urban resilience programme that will reach 2,820 households with skills and start-up kits for different value chains.

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

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Photo: LSA recipients carry their food assistance from the distribution point in Mangwe District, Zimbabwe. WFP/Christopher Charamba

## 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.
<p><b>Strategic outcome 1:</b> Food- and nutrition-insecure populations in targeted rural and urban areas meet their food and nutrition needs at all times, including during crises.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide unconditional humanitarian cash and food transfers to food insecure people in targeted areas while supporting national institutions in delivering social and humanitarian assistance.</li> </ul>

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food.
<p><b>Strategic outcome 2:</b> By 2026, food-insecure households in urban areas meet their food and nutrition needs through resilient livelihoods.</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide skills training, tools, and infrastructure to vulnerable urban households for enhanced livelihoods and entrepreneurship.</li> </ul>

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition
<p><b>Strategic outcome 3:</b> By 2026, targeted rural populations achieve climate resilient livelihoods, sustainable management of natural resources and enhanced participation in local markets and value chains</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs
<p><b>Strategic Outcome 4:</b> 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</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Provide strategic, technical and coordination assistance to national and subnational institutions in support of well-informed and capacitated zero hunger actions.</li> </ul>

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs
<p><b>Strategic Outcome 5:</b> 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</p> <p><b>Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide bilateral supply chain and other services to humanitarian and development actors on demand.</li> <li>Provide mandated services through the logistics cluster to Government and humanitarian actors when the cluster is activated</li> </ul>

## Evidence generation & research

- WFP provided both financial and technical assistance to the preparation of the 2024 Urban ZimVAC. The data collection for the assessment is scheduled to take place from 12 to 25 February 2024. The results of this evaluation will play a crucial role in shaping WFP’s urban programming.
- WFP provided strategic feedback on the Tongogara Refugee Camp joint assessment mission (JAM) conducted in late 2023. WFP incorporated gender and protection questions into the JAM qualitative data collection tool scheduled for deployment in February 2024.
- WFP supported the finalisation of the emergency response preparedness plan for nutrition in collaboration with UNICEF and MOHCC. The document is now in the design stage.

## Challenges

- WFP is closely monitoring the development of El Niño in Zimbabwe. The 2023/24 rainfall season has exhibited unfavourable conditions, marked by a delayed onset, mid-season dry spells, and inadequate spatial distribution of rainfall.
- El Niño-induced droughts in Zimbabwe can potentially lead to crop failures, water shortages, food insecurity, livestock and wildlife impacts, economic losses, health concerns, energy production challenges, and social displacement, affecting the country's agriculture, health, and energy supply.

## Donors

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