



World Food Programme

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# WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief February 2024

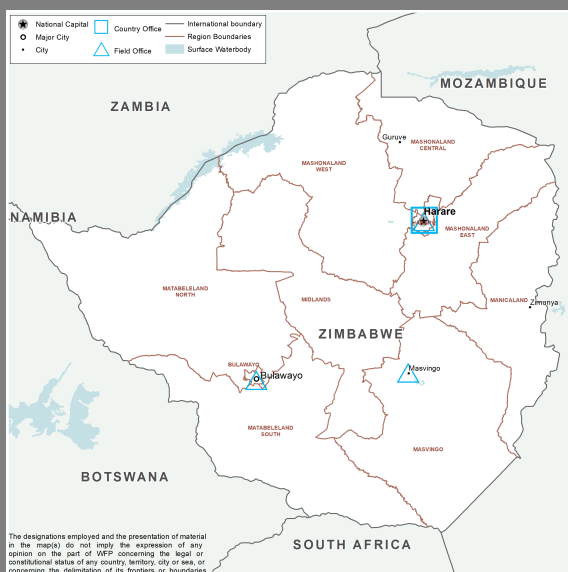


## Operational Context

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 in February 2023. As of 29 February, it has recorded 29,431 suspected and confirmed cases and 569 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, while 26 percent (2.7 million people) of the rural population is estimated to be food insecure 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

**4,138 MT** of food assistance distributed

**USD 904,034** cash-based transfers

**USD 41 m** next six months (March – August 2024) net funding requirements

**331,592 people** assisted in February 2024 through in-kind food and cash transfers

## Operational Updates

- WFP completed the February cycle of the lean season assistance (LSA) distributions in the second half of the month, reaching 242,940 people in Mangwe, Chivi, Mwenezi, and Buhera districts. In addition, 132,700 people received January rations in early February, which was a continuation of the cycle started in late January.
- WFP and the World Health Organization (WHO) conducted a joint monitoring mission to assess activities at food distribution points. The team provided on-site guidance on cholera mitigation measures. WFP will revise its food safety guidelines for LSA distributions in response to the joint assessment mission's recommendations.
- WFP procured and delivered cholera prevention items, including medical supplies and hygiene kits, to LSA programme intervention districts for use during registration and distribution as a precaution against the spread of cholera.
- The urban cash assistance programme reached 53,043 people in Mzilikazi, Chiredzi, Chinhoyi, and Caledonia during the February distribution cycle. Some 8,511 beneficiaries received the last round of the nutrition top-ups in Chiredzi and Mzilikazi.
- Due to evolving vulnerabilities among urban populations, WFP completed reprofiling all urban cash assistance beneficiaries in Chiredzi. Furthermore, WFP has engaged stakeholders to restart urban CBT in Mutare, with a target of 8,500 beneficiaries.
- In Tongogara Refugee Settlement (TRS) and Waterfalls Transit Centre (WTC), WFP provided cash and/or in-kind assistance to 12,903 Persons of Concern (PoC). These included 12,616 for cash, 12,547 for maize meal, 1,758 children under 5 years of age, 392 pregnant and breast-feeding women, and 369 chronically ill people with specialised nutritious products, while an additional 287 new arrivals received a full in-kind basket. The hybrid assistance continued smoothly in February.

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Photo: LSA recipient signs to receive food assistance from the FDP in Matabeleland South, 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	141 m	41 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

- On 13 February, the Embassy of Japan and WFP Zimbabwe signed an agreement for Japan's USD 1.36 million contribution to the 2024–25 lean season assistance programme.

- WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) convened the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC) meeting to discuss the challenges of the 2023–24 agriculture season and the implementation of the Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy (FDMS) as well as the LSA programme. Members of the FSLC acknowledged the need for a coordinated response to the failed 2023–24 cropping season.

- 140 Chiredzi lead farmers received climate services training to assist extension officers in delivering advisories. For the 2023–24 season, WhatsApp messages and AGRITEX (the agricultural extension system) meetings advised 19,440 farmers across regions in the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) programme.

## Evidence generation & research

- WFP Zimbabwe is developing its first gender strategy to improve gender integration and transformative programming. Completion is expected in the second quarter of 2024.
- The Memorandum of Understanding between WFP and the National University of Science and Technology (NUST) has been extended to cover 2024–2027. This extension enhances disaster risk reduction, resilience building, and social protection efforts between the two institutions.
- WFP provided technical and financial support to the 2024 Urban ZimVAC assessment, expected to be published in April 2024.

## Challenges

- The El Niño phenomenon negatively impacts agricultural productivity projections for the 2023-24 cropping season. A widespread crop failure has occurred, with a significant proportion of crops reaching the permanent wilting stage. Decreased rainfall and soaring temperatures are leading to dwindling water sources, jeopardising livestock well-being and access to food.

## Donors

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