



WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief April 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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 30 April, it has recorded 33,273 suspected and confirmed cases and 705 suspected and confirmed deaths.

Zimbabwe is currently facing the impact of an El Niño-induced drought, which has significantly impacted food and nutrition security outcomes, agriculture production, and livelihoods. The Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) cluster estimates that some 6 million people may be in need (PIN) across all El Niño-affected districts, rural (4.5 million) and urban (1.5 million).

The findings of the 2024 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (ZimVAC) Urban livelihoods assessment are imminent and awaiting cabinet approval. The Rural Livelihoods assessment is scheduled for May 2024 and will provide insights into the scale of food insecurity in rural areas from June 2024 through March 2025.



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

188 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 894,847 cash-based transfers

USD 87 m next six months (June 24 – November 24) net funding requirements

74,319 people assisted in April 2024 through in-kind food and cash transfers

Operational Updates

- In 2023, WFP obtained an Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) Replica drought insurance policy, complementing the government's insurance coverage and increasing the number of vulnerable populations covered by climate risk insurance. WFP will receive USD 6 million from this policy, which will be used to provide unconditional transfers for two months in the lean season assistance (LSA) programme districts, benefiting an estimated 185,000 people.
- In April, WFP's crisis response activities assisted 74,319 people, including 12,347 refugees at Tongogara Refugee Settlement (TRS), and provided cash transfers to 61,972 vulnerable urban populations in five urban domains (Caledonia Chinhoyi, Chiredzi, Mutare, and Mzilikazi. WFP also worked with the Department of Social Development to support the government's Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy Programme (FDMS) in five locations.
- WFP and partners invested in various El Niño mitigation activities from late 2023 to date. By April, WFP had drilled 23 of the planned 53 boreholes in Binga, Chiredzi, Hwange, and Masvingo Districts, after assisting farmers in obtaining drought-tolerant seed varieties and climate information. Solar-powered boreholes will support nutrition gardens and livestock, as well as provide access to potable water for human consumption.
- As part of its resilience-building efforts, WFP and its partners provided skills training, tools, and infrastructure to improve livelihoods and entrepreneurship to 6,520 vulnerable urban households in 6 urban domains. The programme actively encourages youth to improve their skills and business acumen by providing technical vocational education, developing their business management skills to improve their business acumen and entrepreneurial capabilities, and integrating them into the money economy through training and the provision of starter kits aligned with their income-generating activities.

Photo: WFP is providing food assistance support to refugees at Tongogara Refugee Settlement. Part of the assistance is Maize meal provided by the Government of Zimbabwe. WFP/Christopher Charamba

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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	143 m	87 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

- In April, 7,262 farmers (4,858 females and 2,404 males) in Binga and Hwange districts received climate services training as part of the implementation of anticipatory actions. The training provided farmers with knowledge about climate change, as well as how to use climate information and weather forecasts to make informed farming and livelihood decisions.
- WFP contributed to developing a USD 429.3 million United Nations in Zimbabwe Drought Flash Appeal, designed to assist 3.1 million people and complement the government-led relief and response efforts.

Evidence generation & research

- WFP provided technical and financial assistance for national supervisor training, field testing of data collection tools, and electronic tool programming for the 2024 Zimbabwe Rural Livelihoods Assessment Committee. Data collection for the rural assessment will begin in early May. The assessment findings will inform decision-making and planning for the humanitarian response to the El Niño-induced drought.
- WFP Zimbabwe is in the process of finalizing its first gender strategy, which will assess the current integration of gender into its programmes. This strategy will make methodical recommendations on how to improve gender mainstreaming and incorporate more gender transformative approaches into existing programming.

Challenges

- Findings of the 2024 second-round Crop, Livestock, and Fisheries Assessment Report (CLFA—2) indicate that the El Nino-induced drought severely and negatively impacted agricultural production and productivity for the 2023–2024 farming season. Maize production decreased by 77% compared to 2,298,281 MT in 2022–23. The government estimates that 7.7 million people (6 million in rural areas and 1.7 million in urban areas) are food insecure.
- WFP's current response plan based on the flash appeal, valued at an estimated USD 201 million, plans to assist 1.8 million people in both rural and urban areas through March 2025. For the next six months (June to November), WFP requires an additional USD 87 million to implement its activities at scale.

Donors

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