



WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief

May 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

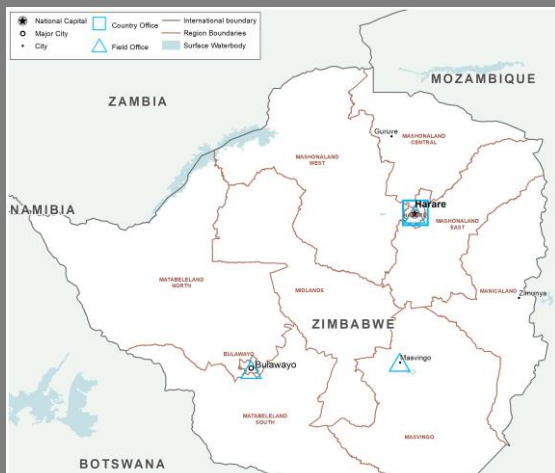


Operational Context

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 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 Zimbabwe Drought Flash Appeal was launched in May 2024. The appeal aims to mobilize humanitarian action between May 2025 and April 2025 in support of the government led El Niño response, and it directly complements the government's own relief efforts. The Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) cluster estimates that some 6 million people are likely to be food insecure across all El Niño-affected districts.

The 2024 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (ZimVAC) Urban livelihoods assessment estimates that 35% of the urban population, or 1.7 million people, are currently food insecure. The Rural Livelihoods assessment currently ongoing, 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

184 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 897,000 cash-based transfers

USD 81.9 m next six months (June 24 – November 24) net funding requirements

74,533 people assisted in May 2024 through in-kind food and cash transfers

Operational Updates

- WFP and partner representatives from Caritas, Mwenezi Development and Training Centre (MDTC), and World Vision held a Lean Season Assistance (LSA) lesson learned workshop to share insights and reflections on the recently concluded 2023–2024 LSA programme. The discussions provided foundational elements to strengthen planning and implementation of the upcoming 2024–25 LSA cycle.
- In May, WFP and partners provided assistance to 61,984 people (99.6% of the plan) in 5 urban domains through its urban cash transfer's programme. This programme combats short-term food insecurity by providing a monthly cash transfer of USD 13 per person via two financial service providers. To protect against inflation and preserve the value of the assistance, the programme allows for USD cash outs.
- Given the country's current macroeconomic situation, WFP is working with the National Cash Working Group to review the current Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) to ensure that the beneficiaries' purchasing power does not erode.
- WFP is layering its urban cash transfer programme with urban resilience activities to bolster the livelihoods of targeted urban communities. WFP and its partners, through the Urban Resilience Building Programme, assist 6,520 people in 6 urban domains with gender-transformative approaches to skill development and income generation. Selected households receive starter kits and training from technical experts in business management, financial literacy, technical skills, and marketing.
- WFP and partners assisted 12,554 refugees and asylum seekers with cash and in-kind assistance at the Tongogara Refugee Settlement (TRS). Of these, WFP and partners assisted 12,318 refugees and asylum seekers with USD 7 per person and provided a complete in-kind basket to 236 new arrivals. An extra 6 kg of specialized nutritious foods were provided to 1,803 children under the age of 5, 405 pregnant and breastfeeding women, and 353 chronically ill persons to improve their tailored nutrition outcomes.

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Photo: Tendai Mudoro, a beneficiary of the urban resilience programme, presenting her dried fruit products in Mutare. 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	150 m	81.9 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.

- WFP contributes to the government's disaster risk planning and management processes for climate hazards. In May, WFP advocated for the development of policies, structures, and strategies to support Anticipatory Actions (AA) in Zimbabwe, ensuring their integration into the government's disaster risk management systems. This process resulted in the review and validation of a roadmap for anticipatory action.
- Quarterly meetings with district AA Technical Working Groups were held in Rushinga, Mbire, and Mudzi districts to update the Anticipatory Action Plan (AAP) district annexes in preparation for the 2024–25 season.
- WFP is collaborating with UN agencies, the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare, and other humanitarian organizations to operationalize the Zimbabwe Drought Flash Appeal, ensuring alignment and coordination of planned El Niño response activities with those of the government and other partners.

Evidence Generation & Research

- In May, WFP, UNHCR, the government (national, provincial, and district levels), and refugee community representatives participated in the Joint Assessment Mission's (JAM) findings validation exercise. The findings are critical for stakeholders to design appropriate response actions for refugees, displaced people, and host communities.
- WFP Zimbabwe provided technical support for the 2024 Zimbabwe Rural Livelihood Assessment (ZimLAC) data analysis and report writing process. The findings of this assessment will guide humanitarian response planning to mitigate against the adverse impacts of the El Niño-induced drought and facilitate critical decision-making processes at all levels of governance. The report is anticipated to be released in June.

Challenges

- In view of the need for an expanded food assistance response to address the El Niño-induced drought, the current funding shortfalls of USD 81.9m over the next 6 months are particularly concerning, both in terms of humanitarian assistance and resilience building. Attention is drawn to the critical situation of the urban cash-based transfer programme in Mutare, Caledonia, Chinhoyi, and Mziikazi, which serves approximately 52,000 people. Due to a lack of funds, the CBT programme will cease operations in July 2024.

Donors

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