



WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief August 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



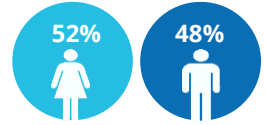
In Numbers

183 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 898,000 cash-based transfers distributed

USD 163 million net funding requirements for the next six months (September 24 – February 25)

74,928 people assisted in August 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 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 2024 and April 2025 in support of the Government-led El Niño response, and it directly complements the government's own relief efforts.

The 2024 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee's (ZimVAC) Urban livelihoods assessment estimates that 35 percent of the urban population, or 1.7 million people, are currently food insecure. The Rural Livelihoods assessment estimates that some 4.7 million people in rural areas are food insecure from July to August 2024, and projected to peak at approximately 35 percent or 5.9 million people at the peak of the lean season from January through March 2025.

The map below indicated the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) presence in the country.



Population: 15.2 million

2022 Human Development Index: 159 out of 193

Income Level: Lower middle

Chronic malnutrition: 24 percent of children between 6-59 months

Operational Updates

El Niño response: WFP is working with the Zimbabwean government to address seasonal food shortages through its Lean Season Assistance (LSA) programme and the government's Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy (FDMS) programme. In August, WFP held a national learning session with stakeholders from the Department of Social Development, Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing, Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Ministry of Health and Childcare, and the Grain Marketing Board to improve collaboration, transparency, and coordination of humanitarian programmes.

Logistics support to the government: WFP is also supporting the government with logistics by transporting cereals for the FDMS programme. In the first distribution cycle, WFP successfully transported 12,000 MT of cereals, with an additional 9,000 MT scheduled for delivery between August and October 2024.

Lean Season Assistance (LSA): In preparation for the first distribution under the LSA programme, WFP conducted inception meetings across the three districts benefiting from the ARC Replica insurance payout: Buhera, Mangwe, and Mwenezi. Registration and verification of targeted households have been completed, setting the stage for the first distribution cycle in September. WFP plans to assist 278,000 people in September and October, providing each person with 8.5 kg of cereal, 1.5 kg of pulses, and 0.6 kg of vegetable oil per month.

Urban Cash Assistance: In August, WFP and its partners provided assistance to 62,451 people through urban cash transfers, just shy of the target of 62,500, with each person receiving USD 13 per month. Additionally, WFP continued to support the government's cash-for-cereal program in urban areas, ensuring that the interventions complemented one another and minimizing potential duplication by targeting different urban domains.

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
593 m	187 m	163 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

Operational Updates (continued)

Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) Cluster: In August, WFP, along with members of the FSL cluster and the National Climate Working Group, participated in an El Niño response coordination meeting organized by the Ministry of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare. The meeting focused on discussing transfer modalities for the El Niño response, aimed at improving coordination efforts among the government and partners.

Evidence generation & research

Seasonal outlook: The Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum has forecasted a high likelihood of normal to above-normal rainfall across much of the region, including Zimbabwe, for the October to December (OND) 2024 period. From January to March (JFM) 2025, normal to above-normal rainfall is also anticipated in most areas, though some regions may see normal to below-normal rainfall. Similarly, the National Climate Outlook Forum has indicated a strong possibility of normal to above-normal rainfall in Zimbabwe from November to March 2025. If this seasonal outlook holds true, there is significant potential for good agricultural production and improved livelihoods reliant on water, ultimately enhancing food availability and access at the household level. WFP will work with communities to share climate information and support informed agricultural planning.

National Rural Livelihoods Assessment: WFP provided financial and technical support to the Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee to disseminate the findings of the 2024 Rural Livelihoods Assessment. This exercise shared key insights with provincial and district stakeholders, contextualizing the results while gathering valuable feedback. The process underscored the implications of the findings, identified critical issues and indicators for monitoring, and established a feedback mechanism to prioritize concerns in planning. This report serves as an essential planning tool for both humanitarian and development programmes.

Challenges

WFP’s El Niño response, encompassing Lean Season Assistance, urban cash transfers, and nutrition interventions in both urban and rural areas, is currently facing a funding gap of USD 152 million against total requirements of USD 201 million. With the peak of the hunger season approaching (January to March 2025) and limited availability of commodities both locally and regionally, there is an urgent need for additional resources to address the escalating needs in a timely and effective manner.

Donors

Canada, European Commission through ECHO, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, WFP’s Emerging Donors Matching Fund, Zimbabwe (in alphabetical order).