



WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief September 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



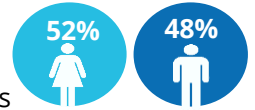
In Numbers

4,444 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 897,210 cash-based transfers distributed

USD 155 million net funding requirements for the next six months (Oct 24 - March 25)

358,518 people assisted in September 2024 through in-kind food and cash transfers



Operational Updates

Lean Season Assistance: As part of the national efforts to support the El Niño drought response and the UN Flash Appeal, in September, utilising funding received from WFP's ARC replica policy payout, WFP and its partners successfully assisted 269,514 people out of a total of 272,787 in three districts: Buhera, Mwenezi, and Mangwe. Mangwe and Mwenezi districts received double rations, while Buhera received a single ration. Plans are underway to finalise the remaining distribution cycle for Buhera by 31 October.

WFP is consistently collaborating with other humanitarian partners and the Government to eliminate duplication and strengthen complementarity for a more efficient and comprehensive approach.

Urban Cash Assistance: WFP is assisting 62,455 in urban areas with USD 13 per person per month in five urban domains through cash assistance to help cushion the impacts of drought and increased food needs. WFP collaborates on its cash assistance activities with the Government and humanitarian partners through the National Cash Working Group.

WFP is layering cash-based transfers with resilience-building activities to promote long-term self-reliance while also utilising the urban cash assistance platform to support gender-transformative actions through the Stopping Abuse and Female Exploitation (SAFE) programme. In September, WFP Zimbabwe hosted a mission from the Group of Friends on Protection and Accountability (donors from Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, and the United States of America) to observe how WFP implements the Protection and Accountability Policy. Partners travelled to Chiredzi and witnessed the SAFE programme, which is a multi-partner, FCDO-funded initiative where WFP combines unconditional cash transfers with resilience-building activities, internal saving and lending groups, a social empowerment component aimed at promoting family well-being and reducing intimate partner violence, and gender-based violence response services.

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 - April 2025 supporting the Government-led El Niño response, and it directly complements the government's own relief efforts.

The 2024 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee's 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 indicates 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

Contact info: lfeoma Garba, lfeoma.maduekegarba@wfp.org
Country Director: Barbara Clemens
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/zimbabwe

Photo: WFP staff training farmers in Rushinga on conservation agriculture as they prepare for the 2024/25 agriculture season. WFP/Tatenda Macheke

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
593 m	189.5 m	155 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)

Urban resilience: WFP, in collaboration with partners, provided skills training, tools, and infrastructure to vulnerable urban households in six urban areas to enhance livelihoods and entrepreneurship. As part of its youth empowerment strategy, WFP worked with education institutions (Catholic University of Zimbabwe, Harare Institute of Technology, and Chinhoyi University of Technology) to support the training of 260 youths from Chinhoyi and Harare, all of whom graduated with vocational and digital skills and received starter kits to improve their financial inclusion. Youth empowerment activities, funded by USAID and Switzerland, remain a key component in enhancing the financial inclusion of young people, providing them with opportunities to become innovative, employable, and entrepreneurial, improving their resilience.

Support to refugees: In September, WFP and partners assisted 12,424 refugees and asylum seekers at Tongogara Refugee Settlement. Of these, 12,185 persons of concern received hybrid assistance comprising USD 7 and 13 kg of maize meal per person per month (pppm), while an additional 239 new arrivals received a complete in-kind basket.

Climate services: WFP is assisting communities in preparing for the 2024/25 agricultural season. In September, the seasonal forecast for 2024/25 was shared in five districts - Chipinge, Mwenezi, Masvingo, Mangwe, and Rushinga - through Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture planning and review workshops. A total of 148 ARDAS extension officers were trained and are now disseminating the seasonal forecast to farmers.

Food assistance for assets (FFA): The 2024 cycle of the FFA programme is scheduled to be completed in November. Asset creation is ongoing in Kariba, Chiredzi, and Zvishavane Districts under the FFA programme, where WFP, in collaboration with the government, is working with 14,125 people to restore degraded ecosystems, develop nutrition gardens, and provide training sessions to strengthen their capacities. This includes market linkages using the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion approach in partnership with the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development and JICA.

Challenges

As the peak of the hunger season approaches (January to March 2025) and commodity availability remains limited, urgent additional resources are essential to meet escalating needs. WFP’s El Niño response - comprising Lean Season Assistance, urban cash transfers, and nutrition interventions in both urban and rural areas - still requires USD 139 million to effectively support affected communities.

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).