



WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief November 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 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 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**

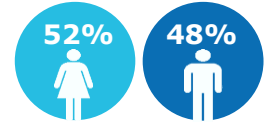
In Numbers

638.12 mt of food distributed

US\$ 897,408 cash-based transfers distributed

US\$ 103 million net funding requirements for the next six months (Dec 24 – May 25)

90,628 people assisted in November 2024 through in-kind food and cash transfers



Operational Updates

Lean Season Assistance: WFP prioritised partner engagement across seven of the eight targeted districts, with progress in Insiza district delayed due to a later start. Beneficiary validation in Chivi District, conducted with support from the Department of Social Development (DSD) and other stakeholders, provided an opportunity to pilot and refine improved targeting tools, enhancing their effectiveness.

Verification of beneficiary households began to assess targeting efficiencies and is expected to conclude in December, enabling distributions to commence in Chivi District during December, with distributions in other districts scheduled to follow in January.

Food Assistance for Assets (FFA): The FFA programme provided triple rations of cereal and vegetable oil to 2,825 households (14,125 people) in Chiredzi, Kariba, and Zvishavane Districts. The distributions are in lieu of assistance due to the participants for the 2024 FFA cycle, which had been affected by delays in the arrival of commodities. Distributions for this cycle will be finalised in December marking the end of the 2024 FFA cycle.

In 2024, WFP and partners focused on upgrading existing assets, ecosystem restoration and promoting climate-smart agriculture by training households among others in social cohesion, farming as a business, asset maintenance, village savings and lending schemes, soil and water conservation. Assets developed included drip irrigated nutrition gardens powered by solar boreholes, along with fodder plots, garden grading sheds, and poultry units.

Support to Refugees; 12,436 refugees and asylum seekers at Tongogara Refugee Settlement received a hybrid assistance of cash and in-kind assistance, with specialized foods provided to 2,585 vulnerable individuals (children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and the chronically ill).

Urban Cash Assistance: In November, WFP assistance reached 62,481 individuals across Mzilikazi, Caledonia, Chinhoyi, Mutare, and Chiredzi urban domains. Starting in December, WFP will scale down its urban cash assistance programme, focusing solely on Chiredzi through February 2025, reducing from the initial support for five urban areas.

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

Photo: People from Chivi hold their food assistance received under the 2024/25 LSA programme. 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	205 m	103 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)

The unavailability of resources for the Urban cash assistance programme has led to the discontinuation of the programme in 4 urban domains during this peak hunger and drought season.

Climate services: Farmers in Masvingo, Mwenezi, Chipinge, Rushinga, and Mangwe districts continued to receive advisories through WhatsApp and PICSA radio programmes, enhancing agricultural decision-making and disaster preparedness.

As part of anticipatory action activation, 4,984 farmers in Chiredzi received drought-tolerant seed varieties, complemented by climate services via extension agents and WhatsApp platforms.

Urban Preparedness: WFP and partners carried out a Disaster Risk Management (DRM) workshop in Kwekwe to review DRM plans and conduct simulations, promoting peer-to-peer learning among cities. Flood mapping exercises in Gweru are scheduled for January-February 2025.

Market and Food security monitoring: Zimbabwe is experiencing a delayed onset of rainfall, with most areas receiving below-average rain to date. Typically, the rainy season begins in mid-November, but significant rains have yet to be recorded in many regions. Vegetation and grazing conditions remain poor following the 2023/24 drought, negatively impacting livestock and draught power availability for planting. Immediate forecasts from SARCOF indicate a likelihood of normal to above-normal rainfall for much of the country in the period December 2024 to March 2025. However, normal to below-normal rainfall may still be experienced in localized areas during the same period.

The government, with the support of WFP and other partners, continues with the drought response across the country. The focus is on food assistance for the most vulnerable households coupled with input support for the current agriculture season.

Challenges

WFP's resilience and humanitarian activities remain under-resourced amidst rising food insecurity levels as the peak of the hunger season (January to March) approaches. The LSA programme can only meet the needs of 1 million out of the planned 1.5 million people. Additionally, the Urban CBT programme will be scaled down from December 2024, reducing its assistance from 62,000 people in five domains to 11,000 people in Chiredzi domain through February 2025 due to resource constraints. Resilience activities such as the Urban resilience and FFA activities are underfunded for 2025; WFP requires US\$ 103m to fully implement its activities in the next six months.

Donors

CERF, European Commission through ECHO, Germany, Japan, Korea, LDS, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, WFP's Emerging Donors Matching Fund, Zimbabwe (in alphabetical order).