



# WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief December 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



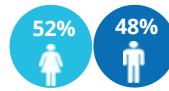
## In Numbers

1,972 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 227,071 cash-based transfers distributed

USD 72.6 million net funding requirements for the next six months (January– June 25)

170,400 people assisted in December 2024 through in-kind food and cash transfers



## Operational Updates

**Lean Season Assistance:** WFP, in partnership with seven Cooperating Partners, is supporting the Government's Lean Season Assistance (LSA) programme in nine districts, targeting 985,55 people facing food shortages. District Drought Relief Committee and inception meetings in seven districts facilitated validation, SCOPE, and verification processes. An approved interagency collaboration will see WFP working with FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and UN Women to provide comprehensive assistance to food-insecure communities.

**Food Assistance for Assets:** Through the **Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)** programme, 2,825 households received food rations, completing activities in Kariba, Chiredzi, and Zvishavane. 14,125 people benefited from nutrition gardens, solarised boreholes, drip irrigation, fodder gardens, and orchards. All 2,825 participants received training in asset management, financial literacy, post-harvest handling, farming as a business, gender and protection, and sustainable agriculture to enhance livelihoods and ensure long-term asset use.

**Integrated Resilience Building:** In Masvingo and Rushinga, WFP and partners supported 4,000 households through the Integrated Climate Risk Management programme. Key achievements included creating 14 assets, installing drip irrigation on 5.5 hectares, and improving livestock with four Boer goats in Rushinga. Poultry and mushroom starter packs were provided, and 1,800 meters of fencing secured three weir basins. Additionally, 1,000 hectares of land underwent soil and water conservation. Training in asset management and maintenance was provided to 168 participants, including Project Implementation Teams, Asset Management Committees, and Water Point Committees.

**Support to Refugees:** In December 2024, WFP assisted 12,346 People of Concern (PoCs) with cash and in-kind support, including 12,077 for cash, 12,066 for maize meal, and targeted nutrition support for children under-5, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, and chronically ill persons. Additionally, 269 new arrivals received full in-kind food baskets.

## 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

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*Photo: A Chivi beneficiary receives their vegetable oil rations during the Lean Season Assistance distributions. WFP/Tatenda Macheke*



## Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>593 m</b>	<b>215 m</b>	<b>72.6 m</b>

### 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

Follow-up visits revealed that PoCs found cash assistance insufficient, leading some to sell maize meal to cover other household needs.

The newly built waiting shed at Tongogara Refugee Settlement was used for the first time.

**Urban Cash Assistance:** WFP assisted 10,964 people (96.7 percent) with cash -36 missed redemptions due to absence. Chiredzi was the only urban area assisted after the programme ended in Mzilikazi, Chinhoyi, Mutare, and Goromonzi due to resource constraints. The Private Impact Assessment Data Flow and actors mapping for rural and urban LSA assistance were completed and submitted to HQ for review.

**Disaster Risk Financing:** WFP participated in a Government of Zimbabwe workshop from December 9-13 in Bulawayo to finalize the Disaster Risk Financing Strategy. In collaboration with the African Risk Capacity, the World Bank, African Development Bank, the Start Network, and academics, the strategy aims to strengthen the government's capacity to anticipate and respond to disasters, ensuring fiscal stability and protecting citizens' well-being.

**Gender:** WFP Zimbabwe, in partnership with Plan International and Musasa, is implementing the Toose programme in Chiredzi alongside Urban Cash Assistance. The programme aims to prevent and respond to Gender Based Violence through economic and social interventions. By December, 7 of 9 sessions had been completed. The initiative aligns with global evidence linking food insecurity to violence against women and girls.

**Nutrition:** WFP participated in multistakeholder discussions on scaling up edible insect-based porridge to improve primary school children's nutrition, coordinated by the Scaling Up Nutrition Research and Academia Platform (SUNRAP) and the Food and Nutrition Council. Additionally, WFP supported efforts to develop an advocacy and communication toolkit for health regulations on breastmilk substitutes and infant nutrition.

## Challenges

WFP aims to reach almost 1 million individuals with available resources, representing approximately 67 percent of the initially planned 1.5 million individuals in rural areas. To support efforts to reach more people, WFP is providing logistical assistance for the movement of government grain. As food insecurity worsens with the approaching peak hunger season (January to March), other critical interventions remain under-resourced. The Urban cash-based transfer programme has been scaled down from assisting 62,000 individuals across five domains to just 11,000 people in Chiredzi through February 2025, leaving approximately 51,000 people without support. Additionally, resilience initiatives such as Urban Resilience and FFA remain underfunded, with WFP requiring USD 72.6 million to fully implement these activities over the next six months.

## Donors

CERF, European Commission through ECHO, Germany, Japan, Korea, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS), Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, WFP's Emerging Donors Matching Fund, Zimbabwe (in alphabetical order).