



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief May 2025



Operational Context

According to the 2025 Second Round Crops, Livestock and Fisheries Assessment report (CLAFA-2), total cereal production is estimated at 2,928,206 MT, with maize production estimated at 2,293,556 MT. Traditional grain production including sorghum, pearl millet, and finger millet is estimated at 634,650 MT, broken down as follows: sorghum at 436,784 MT, pearl millet at 188,261 MT, and finger millet at 9,605 MT. While this may seem to indicate grain availability at the national level, deficits persist in rural locations.

The stark disparities in crop and cereal production across different regions highlight the urgent need for targeted interventions. By addressing these geographical imbalances in food distribution, we can ensure that vulnerable populations receive the support they need and are not left behind in the fight against hunger and food insecurity.

The 2025 Zimbabwe Livelihood Assessment Committee (ZimLAC) findings are yet to be released, as data analysis is still ongoing. The report will provide insights into the actual number of people requiring food assistance and the main drivers of food insecurity and vulnerability during the 2025/2026 consumption period. However, to highlight previous data, according to the 2024 ZimLAC report, 5.9 million people in rural areas and 2.1 million in urban areas of Zimbabwe require immediate food assistance due to significant crop failures caused by El Niño and persistent drought conditions affecting local food production.

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**

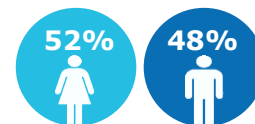
In Numbers

194.55 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 96,880 cash-based transfers distributed

USD 31.1 million net funding requirements for the next six months (June – November 25)

12,110 people assisted in May 2025 through in-kind food and cash transfers



Operational Updates

Support to Refugees: In May, WFP Zimbabwe, in partnership with the Government of Zimbabwe, provided food assistance to 12,110 refugees at Tongogara Refugee Settlement (TRS). In response to the Government's transition from maize to wheat as the primary in-kind cereal, WFP adjusted its assistance modality by distributing wheat grain and providing an additional cash top-up of USD 1 per person to cover milling costs. This adjustment increased the total monthly cash transfer to USD 8 per person, enabling refugees to mill wheat and purchase essential commodities such as vegetable oil and pulses. WFP proactively engaged and sensitized stakeholders at Tongogara Refugee Settlement to facilitate the smooth acceptance of the cereal transition. Distributions were successfully completed within the month, with WFP and its partners also providing cooking demonstrations and guidance to support households in the effective preparation of wheat-based meals.

Inter-Agency Collaboration: WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNFPA to enhance collaboration in the integration of nutrition and gender-based violence (GBV) mitigation services within food security interventions. This partnership seeks to deliver more holistic and inclusive support to vulnerable populations.

Urban Preparedness: In May, WFP Zimbabwe advanced its urban preparedness efforts through a series of collaborative activities designed to strengthen disaster risk management and response capacity:

WFP supported a flood mapping exercise in the Ascot area of Gweru City, a known flood-prone hotspot. The exercise was led by the Zimbabwe National Geospatial and Space Agency (ZINGSA) and the Department of Civil Protection (DCP), with technical support from the CIMA Research Foundation. Local stakeholders, including the Gweru City Civil Protection Committee, actively participated in the exercise, reinforcing community engagement and ownership. The data collected will inform the development of high-resolution hydraulic models to enhance flood risk assessment and strengthen flood management strategies in urban areas.

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
593 m	221 m	31.1 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)

WFP facilitated a strategic meeting between the Department of Civil Protection (DCP) and the African Centre for Disaster Studies (ACDS) at North-West University (NWU). The discussions centered on ACDS-NWU's ongoing regional assessment of logistical prepositioning, which seeks to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities to improve emergency preparedness and response capacities across SADC countries.

WFP convened a virtual session to initiate the development of standardised Simulation Exercise (SIMEX) guidelines for Zimbabwe. The session brought together key stakeholders, including representatives from the Department of Civil Protection (DCP), local governments from Midlands and Bulawayo Metropolitan provinces, the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, World Vision, WFP's Regional Bureau in Johannesburg, and the WFP Zimbabwe Country Office. This collaborative engagement laid the foundation for establishing a national framework to guide the design and implementation of future simulation exercises, aimed at strengthening disaster preparedness and response capacities.

Integrated Rural Resilience Building (IRRB) Programme:

In May, WFP convened a national inception meeting to launch the Japan-funded Integrated Rural Resilience Building (IRRB) Programme, developed in collaboration with the Japanese private sector. The initiative focuses on strengthening the sesame value chain across five targeted districts: Mt Darwin, Chipinge, Chiredzi, Mwenezi, and Rushinga.

The inception meeting provided a strategic platform to align key stakeholders including government ministries, implementing partners, financial institutions, and private sector actors on the programme's objectives, implementation approach, and expected outcomes. The session also fostered collaboration and shared ownership, critical for the programme's success and long-term sustainability over the next three years.

Early results from the 2024/2025 agricultural season are promising, with farmers in Mwenezi, Chiredzi, and Rushinga already harvesting sesame, and average yields projected at 800 kg/ha.

Challenges: WFP Zimbabwe is currently facing a critical funding shortfall of USD 31.1 million, representing 65 percent of its operational requirements for the period June to November 2025. This significant gap threatens the continuity of vital resilience-building programmes that are essential for strengthening food security and community self-reliance. Urgent donor support is required to sustain operations and protect the hard-won food security gains achieved to date. In response, WFP is actively pursuing strategic opportunities, including enhanced engagement with the private sector, joint programming with development partners, and the exploration of innovative financing mechanisms.

Donors

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