



WFP Zimbabwe

COUNTRY BRIEF

March 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Despite funding constraints, WFP reached nearly 87,000 people in February including 76,000 people reached through the lean season (January-March) response.
- Resilience and livelihoods activities strengthened community capacity, through climate advisories for 30,000 farmers, sesame production support for 7,900 smallholders, and youth-driven digital innovations improving market access and livestock management.

IN NUMBERS



86,899 people assisted in February, 2026



45%
Male



55%
Female



682.6 mt food distributed



USD 68,397 cash distributed through cash-based transfers



USD 37.6M (Mar – Aug 2026) net funding requirements

Photo Caption & Credit: Ms. Yokotani Kaoru, Japanese Deputy Ambassador to Zimbabwe, hands over Lean Season Assistance commodities in Mberengwa. WFP/Tatenda Macheka

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Zimbabwe continues to face a combination of climatic and economic pressures that are shaping humanitarian needs nationwide. These climatic shocks, compounded by persistent economic constraints, heighten vulnerability among both rural and urban households.
- The 2025 Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee (ZimLAC) projects that approximately 1.5 million people will face food insecurity at the peak of the lean season, January–March 2026. The 2025 ZimLAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment estimates that 1,548,432 people, representing 15 percent of the rural population, are estimated to be food insecure, while the 2025 Urban Livelihoods Assessment estimates that 1,408,385 individuals, or 28 percent of the urban population, are experiencing food insecurity.
- Through its 2022 -2026 County Strategic Plan, WFP Zimbabwe, is prioritizing life-saving food and nutrition assistance while scaling up resilience-building initiatives and strengthening early-warning and social-protection systems. WFP continues to invest in strengthening government capacity to increasingly lead and eventually assume full ownership of programme delivery, while engaging the private sector to accelerate progress toward Zero Hunger.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

General Food Assistance

- WFP and partners commenced distributions under the 2025/26 cycle of the Lean Season Assistance programme in January, with a plan to assist 199,000 people through March. In February, WFP assisted 76,000, falling below its target due to operational constraints, including funding constraints.
- Through the support to refugees at Tongogara Refugee Settlement, WFP and partners assisted 11,000 refugees with monthly entitlements consisting of government-donated cereals complemented by cash transfers. Each refugee received USD 8 to cover milling costs and to enable the purchase of essential commodities such as vegetable oil and pulses.
- The Urban cash transfer programme remains suspended due to resource constraints.

Nutrition

- WFP participated in the Global Nutrition Monitoring Framework (GNMF) initiative with the Nutrition Cluster, strengthening coordinated nutrition monitoring and reporting to improve the quality and comparability of data used for programme planning and evidence-based decision-making.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

- WFP, in partnership with ARDAS, continues to disseminate climate and weather advisories to more than 30,000 farmers across Chipinge, Masvingo, Rushinga, Mwenezi, and Mangwe districts. The information is shared through mobile platforms and regular engagements with agricultural extension officers, enabling farmers to make informed decisions on crop management and other livelihood activities.
- In 2025, with support from the Government of Japan, WFP and its partners, through the Integrated Rural Resilience Building Programme, enabled smallholder farmers in Rushinga, Mwenezi, and Chiredzi to cultivate and market sesame. In 2026, the programme is strengthening farmers' linkages to markets and continuing to build their capacities through targeted trainings and technical support.
- WFP is collaborating with the University of Zimbabwe and PEGARA Japan to promote youth-led digital innovation linked to income generation. Two young developers created and launched applications that improve market access and livestock management: Boneka Marketplace connects poultry producers with buyers in Harare, while Zagriboost offers disease detection and advisory support for small livestock farmers. These digital solutions demonstrate the potential to enhance value chain efficiency and expand livelihood opportunities for youth. These innovative programmes will be scaled through a recently confirmed

funding from the Japan Tokyo International Conference on African Development supplementary funding.

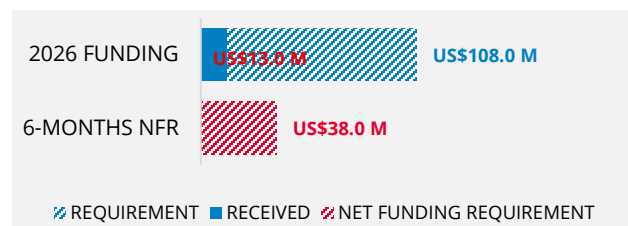
- In February, financial inclusion efforts in Rushinga and Masvingo districts recorded strong gains. Village savings and loan (VSL) groups and Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOs) increased savings, loan uptake, and engagement with formal financial services, alongside notable SACCO growth in both districts. Across 700 groups, communities mobilized USD 39,000 in savings and USD 45,000 in loans. February marked increased financial literacy, stronger capital circulation, and deeper linkages between community financial structures and formal institutions.

Cross- Cutting Issues

- During the 2025/26 LSA programme, WFP and its partners are implementing a strong inter-agency collaboration to deliver integrated services during distributions. UNFPA is providing family planning and HIV testing services, UNICEF partners are conducting acute malnutrition screening and delivering health and nutrition messaging, while WHO is leading sensitization on key WASH issues. Through this coordinated approach, beneficiaries receive a comprehensive package of saving and preventative services.
- WFP Zimbabwe launched its first YELP cohort in 2026, a year-long programme designed to build practical skills and experience for young professionals. Participants are placed within WFP units and seconded to partner organisations, strengthening youth engagement while enhancing programme delivery.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2022-2026)



Donors:

Africa 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).