



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP ZIMBABWE

### COUNTRY BRIEF

May 2026



**161,000** people assisted in April 2026  
(55% female)



**2,890 mt** food distributed in April 2026



**USD 67,400** cash transferred in April 2026



**USD 36.5 M** required in the next six months (May – October 2026)

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2025/26 Lean Season Assistance cycle, scheduled to conclude in April, assisted 151,000 people in March, against a planned 199,000, following the easing of pipeline constraints.
- 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.

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Zimbabwe continues to face intersecting climatic and structural pressures that are driving food insecurity and livelihood stress. Recurrent climate shocks, including heavy rains, mid-season dry spells, and waterlogging, have disrupted agricultural production, damaged infrastructure, and constrained access to communities, increasing vulnerability in both rural and urban areas.
- The 2025/26 agricultural season presents a mixed outlook, shaped by variable rainfall, high input costs, and macroeconomic challenges. According to the First Round Crops, Livestock, and Fisheries Assessment (CLAFA-1), area planted to staple cereals reached 103 percent of the national target (2.43 million hectares), slightly below 2024/25 levels. Reductions in maize hectareage in Manicaland and Mashonaland Central, key surplus producing provinces, are expected to moderate production prospects despite the strong aggregate planted area, with implications for national food availability and WFP planning.
- Through its 2022–2026 Country Strategic Plan, WFP Zimbabwe is delivering life-saving food and nutrition assistance while scaling up resilience-building efforts and strengthening early warning and social protection systems. At the same time, WFP is investing in government capacity to lead and ultimately take full ownership of programme delivery, while partnering with the private sector to accelerate progress towards Zero Hunger.

Reporting Period: April 2026

**Photo Caption & Credit:** WFP staff member engages with a LSA beneficiary at a food distribution point in Mberengwa, Zimbabwe. WFP/Tatenda Macheka

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### General Food Assistance

- WFP and partners launched the 2025/26 Lean Season Assistance in January to support 199,072 people by March. February assistance reached 125,263 due to pipeline breaks and delayed cereals and pulses, but improved conditions in March enabled assistance to about 151,000 people. The cycle was extended to April to complete distributions.
- At Tongogara Refugee Settlement, WFP and partners assisted 9,750 people in March with cereals and cash in lieu of pulses and oil. Beneficiaries are mainly refugees from DRC, Mozambique, Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia, and Ethiopia.

### Nutrition

- WFP facilitated community cooking demonstrations to promote the correct preparation of foods distributed by WFP and the Government of Zimbabwe under the Lean Season Response, alongside locally available foods, while preserving their nutritional value. The sessions promoted the four-star diet through peer-to-peer learning and provided practical training on the preparation and processing of small grains, with a focus on value addition and safe processing practices to prevent health and quality risks associated with improper handling.

### Resilience and Livelihood Support

- Community resilience infrastructure and productive assets were strengthened through the completion and rehabilitation of key livelihood facilities, including fully mechanised poultry centres in urban domains in Harare (Ruwa, Epworth, Ruvheneko and Mabvazuva). These investments are expected to enhance productivity, income generation and the sustainability of community-based livelihoods under resilience programmes.
- Climate resilient livelihoods were supported through expanded access to climate information services, with over 33,000 farmers across multiple districts receiving weather advisories and seasonal forecasts via WhatsApp. This strengthened farmers' capacity to manage climate risks, make

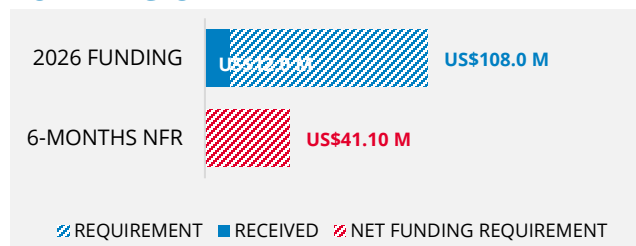
informed production decisions, and safeguard household food security.

- To promote resilient, market driven food systems, WFP strengthened agricultural value chains and post-harvest practices through targeted sesame post-harvest management and marketing activities with AGRITEX, SAT, and farmer associations. This improved product quality, market readiness, and income opportunities for smallholder farmers, supporting resilient livelihoods, reduced vulnerability, and sustainable food security in Zimbabwe.
- WFP continues to build the capacity of government and partner institutions to strengthen service delivery and resilience outcomes. In March, WFP supported the training of 40 Ministry of Agriculture extension officers on the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion approach. The training enhanced market-oriented extension services, enabling officers to better support smallholder farmers to link production to markets and strengthen engagement in resilience building districts.

### Cross-cutting issues

- WFP mainstreamed cross-cutting priorities through strong inter-agency collaboration to support integrated, inclusive programming. UNFPA ensured access to sexual and reproductive health services and commodities, UNICEF supported WASH and nutrition interventions, and WHO led WASH sensitisation and messaging. These efforts complemented WFP's nutrition, food systems and food security programmes, strengthening people-centred service delivery and advancing holistic, resilient, inclusive food security outcomes.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW



### 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).*