



WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief

March 2018

Operational Context

Over the last decade, Zimbabwe has experienced a number of unprecedented economic, environmental and political shocks and stressors, contributing to a 2017 Global Hunger Index classified as 'serious.' 62.6 percent of Zimbabweans live below the poverty line. Consecutive poor agricultural seasons have further undermined the agricultural sector, with dire consequences for a population in which 80 percent of people derive a significant proportion of their livelihoods from rain-fed agriculture and livestock production. Micronutrient deficiencies are prevalent, including a 66 percent prevalence of anaemia among children of ages 6 to 8 months, largely driven by poor dietary diversity.

Working through a Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021) jointly with the Government of Zimbabwe and partners, while preserving its humanitarian response capacity, WFP is promoting a shift towards resilience-building efforts, which includes emphasis on reducing stunting, strengthening social protection systems, and empowering smallholder farmers. WFP has been present in Zimbabwe since 2002.



Population: **15.6 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
154 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower income**

Chronic malnutrition: **31% of children between 6-59 months**

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Tatenda Macheke
Caption: School children at Matenda Primary school queue for their school meals in Zvishavane District. WFP is supporting the Government of Zimbabwe to launch the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme.

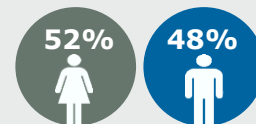
In Numbers

4,247 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$2.2 m cash based transfers made

US\$25.4 m six months (May–October 2018) net funding requirements, representing 72% of total

523,662 people
assisted
in March 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP extended the Lean Season Assistance (LSA) programme in 15 districts from March into April 2018. The extension is prompted by evidence based vulnerability trend analysis overlaid on the late onset of rains, cognisant of the fact that most food-insecure districts are not expected to harvest their crops before May or June. Through the LSA programme, WFP and cooperating partners provided support to 481,802 people in 31 districts. Of those assisted, 405,000 people received assistance through cash-based transfers, either as a full cash transfer ration or as a complimentary cash transfer in lieu of vegetable oil.
- A Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) to better understand the circumstances of refugees at Tongogara Refugee Camp is being planned with the Government and UNHCR, with data collection expected late in May. The result will help inform programming at the camp and help inform tailored assistance for greater impact. In March, 11,272 refugees were assisted.
- Through support from PEPFAR, the treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition registered an increase in uptake of specialised nutrition products as a result of an expanded number of distribution sites, extended admission criteria, and intensified community screening with some additional logistical support provided by WFP. 33,500 people were assisted under the Health and Nutrition portfolio.
- In partnership with SNV and AGRITEX, WFP supported Post-Harvest Handling trainings carried out in March, reaching 300 farmers.
- Work under the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative is ongoing, including efforts in March to finalise the R4 Baseline Survey in Masvingo District, discussions with SNV on the Savings and lending component, and engagement with CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre) on possibilities of collaboration on Conservation Agriculture and Drought Resistant Maize varieties in ward 17 (Masvingo).

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WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)		
255.3 m	66.3m	25.4m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure people, including refugees, in the most affected districts are enabled to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements during severe seasonal shocks or other disruptions		
123.7 m	35.4 m	13 m
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 2: Children in prioritized districts have stunting rate trends in line with the achievement of national and global targets by 2025		
13.8 m	1.5 m	1.5 m
Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition		
Strategic Outcome 3: Smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe have increased access to well-functioning agricultural markets by 2030		
7.4 m	0.4 m	0.7 m
Strategic Result 4: Food systems are sustainable		
Strategic Outcome 4: Food-insecure rural households and smallholder farmers achieve food security and resilience to repeated exposure to multiple shocks and stressors		
94.7 m	17.1 m	12.2 m
Strategic Result 5: Developing Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs		
Strategic Outcome 5: The social protection system ensures that chronically vulnerable populations throughout the country are able to meet their basic needs all year round		
7.4 m	1.3 m	1.1 m
Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology to strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs – SDG Target 17.16		
Strategic Outcome 6: Partners in Zimbabwe are reliably supported by world-class, cost-effective and efficient supply chain services		
4.6 m	9.8 m	0.3 m

WFP Country Activities

SO 1	Activity 1.1: Provide cash and/or food transfers to the most vulnerable households affected by seasonal food shortages. Activity 1.2: Provide unconditional cash and/or food transfers and livelihood support for refugees in camps
SO 2	Activity 2.1: Build evidence for nutrition advocacy, policy direction and programme decision-making Activity 2.2: Support the Government's nutrition programming at the national and sub-national levels
SO 3	Activity 3.1: Support the development of an efficient local food marketing and procurement mechanism Activity 3.2: Enable farmer organizations to aggregate and market surplus production
SO 4	Activity 4.1: Support the creation and rehabilitation of assets for sustainable food and nutrition security Activity 4.2: Enhance the capacity of prioritized districts to plan and manage resilience building

Activity 5.1: Provide analytical expertise to support the evidence-based planning and management of context-specific solutions and responses

Activity 5.2: Support innovative risk management, insurance and financing mechanisms

Activity 5.3: Support the consolidation, administration and implementation of social transfer programmes under the national social protection system

Activity 5.4: Support re-establishment of the national school meals programme

SO 5

Activity 6.1: Provide logistics and procurement expertise and services.

SO 6

Monitoring

- As preparations for the 2018 Productive Asset Creation (PAC) cycle continue, field evaluations were being undertaken in March on proposed PAC sites to ascertain feasibility, estimate and confirm proposed Bills of quantities. The findings will aid in finalisation of partner selection and identification of feasible projects that are within the scope of WFP's plans.
- WFP is supporting the 2018 ZimVAC Rural Livelihood Assessment, the main objective of which is to assess the prevailing food and nutrition security situation, and the impact of the food assistance and input support programmes on rural livelihoods in Zimbabwe for the purposes of informing policy formulation and programming appropriate interventions. Findings would also be used to inform WFP's LSA programme for the 2018/19 consumption year.
- As part of generation of evidence-based information, WFP undertakes bi-weekly markets monitoring as a means of tracking the progression of food security over time in selected markets countrywide. The market prices collected bi-weekly are used to monitor and inform the cash value of the WFP food basket.

Challenges

- Following VAM recommendations, WFP planned to extend the LSA for 2 months (April and May) in order to disincentivise early harvests, but resource constraints have affected these plans, with an extension of an additional month to April being the most feasible option.

Donors (2015 – 2018)

Australia, Canada, China, ECHO, France, Japan, Japan Association for WFP, the Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, UN Central Emergency Fund, United States of America, Zimbabwe.