HIGHLIGHTS:

♦ WFP Zimbabwe welcomed its new Country Director, Francesca Erdelmann!

♦ In August, WFP scaled up its Urban Social Assistance Programme with the target to reach 292,865 people across 19 domains.

♦ LSA and Urban disbursements continued to face delays due to pipeline breaks, store closures, and the temporary suspension of activities in July due to the planned political demonstrations. Double disbursements for July and August are ongoing in several districts.

♦ WFP participated in the Food and Nutrition Council’s rural ZimVAC report; results are expected to be released in late September.

Spotlight: WFP helps curb the spread of COVID-19 at Tongogara Refugee Camp (TRC)

When Zimbabwe recorded its first case of COVID-19 on 20 March 2020, WFP field operations changed dramatically to ensure the continued health and safety of staff, partners, stakeholders and beneficiaries. However, special attention was given to processes at Tongogara Refugee Camp (TRC), where more than 13,400 highly vulnerable refugees reside. Located in Chipinge, TRC is home to displaced persons from all over Central, Eastern and Southern Africa.

WFP has been providing monthly food assistance in TRC since 2015, when the camp’s population surpassed the threshold of 5,000 people, as per an existing global partnership agreement between WFP and UNHCR.

In-kind commodities, including cereals, pulses, vegetable oil, and salt are distributed to all residents at the camp, while nutritious Super Cereal rations are provided to the chronically ill, and Super Cereal Plus to children under five years of age. This is to ensure that infants and young children are protected from malnutrition, given the traditionally poor and erratic dietary patterns within the camp.

WFP’s food basket meets 100% of an individual’s basic food needs, as refugees at TRC rarely have opportunities to earn their own income. Due to their refugee status, residents cannot seek formal employment outside the camp; therefore, they rely on odd jobs, internally, which often pay very little. WFP food assistance, therefore, acts as a lifeline for those who would otherwise not be able to regularly source their own food.

In the context of COVID-19, WFP, in partnership with UNHCR, Terre des Hommes, and the Government of Zimbabwe, have implemented and continue to enforce prevention measures that seek to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus within the camp. Partners have distributed face masks to all residents over the age of five, as well as double soap rations to improve personal and household hygiene. Group food distributions have been discontinued to avoid large gatherings; instead, food is delivered to households one at a time. Furthermore, SCOPE PIN codes and biometric redemption processes have been suspended to reduce the need for shared equipment and sanitization of frequently used surfaces. Post-distribution monitoring continues to be conducted virtually to ensure accountability to affected populations while reducing the need for face-to-face interviews.

At camp level, UNHCR successfully established a quarantine and isolation centre for returning residents and new arrivals, while national lockdown regulations - including social distancing and reduced hours of operation for businesses - continue to be enforced. These measures have successfully prevented the spread of COVID-19 at TRC, with only a select few cases having been reported.

WFP operations in the camp are currently funded thanks to support from USAID.

PEOPLE ASSISTED IN AUGUST:

Lean Season Assistance - 676,709
Urban Social Assistance - 68,051
Health and Nutrition - 2,539
Support to Refugees - 13,482
FFA - 87,175

CSP 5-Year Requirement: USD 468.4 million
CSP 2020 Requirement: USD 382.2 million
Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021) Activity Updates

SO1: Food Assistance for Vulnerable Populations

- August cycle distributions for the Lean Season Assistance (LSA) programme have reached some 676,709 individuals of the planned 751,376, representing 90.06% achievement. Double ration distributions for August and September are ongoing in Chipinge.

- WFP has continued implementation of LSA complementary activities in a systematic manner to address the humanitarian-development nexus, working with partners, line ministries, local authorities and communities. Complementary trainings provided include conservation agriculture, post-harvest support, good agriculture practices, farming as a business, nutrition and Social Behaviour Change Communications (SBCC).

- August cycle disbursements for the Urban Social Assistance programme are still ongoing. To date, 68,051 people of the 292,865-person target have been reached with cash-based assistance. As the Urban Social Assistance programme scales up, WFP continues to integrate social protection elements in conjunction with the government.

- WFP continues to provide in-kind food assistance to residents of Tongogara Refugee Camp. During the month of August, 13,482 people were reached.

SO2: Health & Nutrition

- WFP assisted 2,539 women across 40 Maternity Waiting Homes. Stunting prevention activities remain suspended due to resource constraints; however, WFP continues to engage for support to restart the programme.

SO3: Support to Smallholders

- Preparations for the 2020-21 Small Grains project that supports smallholders are ongoing and activities are set to kick off in October. This month, WFP, in collaboration with FAO and Agritex, identified wards and districts for targeting through the programme.

SO4: Resilience to Seasonal Shocks

- During the month of August, Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) reached 87,175 people with food assistance and trained 17,435 of them on land preparation and soil water conservation techniques. The rehabilitation of existing assets is ongoing. FFA finalized plans to implement asset creation activities in Chipinge and Chimanimani with support from the World Bank, which will target an additional 107,175 people (4,300 households) beginning in September.

- Under R4, inception meetings with Cooperating Partners and district authorities were held in Rushinga. Site selection for ‘Appropriate Agricultural Practices and Seeds’ training was conducted.

- WFP, in collaboration with partners, continues to develop its Forecast-based Financing (FbF) mechanism. Actors have been engaged for the formulation of a National Technical Working Group on FbF.

SO5: Social Protection

- A draft implementation strategy for School Feeding activities in the context of COVID-19 was developed by the School Feeding Technical Working Group under the Education Cluster. School water source development activities will commence in September and are expected to be completed by December.

- WFP continues to participate in the NDS formulation, with a particular emphasis on Social Protection, Food Security and Nutrition, and Environment, Climate and Natural Resources clusters, as well as the UNSDCF where the Common Country Analysis process is anticipated to commence in September.

SO6: Supply Chain Support

- WFP supported the procurement of maize on behalf of the Government of Zimbabwe, thanks to funding from Japan which allowed for low risk financing and engagement of local traders.

In Focus:
Urban assistance offers reprieve amidst COVID-19 pandemic

Prior to the onset of COVID-19, Zimbabwe was already suffering from a dire economic crisis characterised by high rates of inflation and rising food costs. As of 30 March 2020, when the Government of Zimbabwe declared a national lockdown to curb the spread of the coronavirus, millions of people, particularly in urban domains, lost their primary source of income from informal livelihoods. Almost three quarters of the country’s urban workforce, primarily made up of female traders, remains jobless.

WFP projects that the number of food insecure people living in urban areas will rise from 2.2 million to 3.3 million between now and April 2021, as the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic become more pronounced.

For 61-year-old Beauty Johannes from Norton, the past six months have been very difficult, financially. She says she does not know what her family would have done without food assistance from WFP.

“I stay with my four grandchildren and I receive USD120 per month. This has kept the five of us going. I am a widow and I am on medication. I have arthritis and high blood pressure. So, the little [money] I have goes to medication, while what we receive from WFP goes to food,” she said.

As a beneficiary of WFP’s Urban Social Assistance programme, Beauty is one of 30,000 recipients in Norton who receives USD 12 a month, per household member, via WFP’s new SCOPE e-voucher system. Since July, recipients have been able to redeem SCOPE card “points” for both food and non-food commodities at select WFP-contracted retail locations.

Previously, WFP cash-based transfers were made via EcoCash; however, high purchase premiums and administrative costs quickly eroded the purchasing power of recipients. Now, through e-voucher redemption, beneficiaries can purchase more for less with price-adjusted credit from WFP.

The Urban Social Assistance programme is further scaling up to reach 326,004 people across 22 vulnerable urban domains in September, from its target of 292,865 people across 19 domains in August. In an effort to diversify cash delivery mechanisms, WFP also uses Red Rose e-voucher and remittance-based platforms to provide assistance in other urban domains.

To pay for her medication, Beauty runs a small poultry project with her grandchildren. Photo: WFP/Tatenda Macheka
### WFP Operations

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<th>Total Requirements (USD)</th>
<th>6 Months CSP Net Funding Requirements (USD) (September-February)</th>
<th>People Assisted (August 2020)</th>
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<td>CSP TOTAL</td>
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<td>Food Assistance for Assets</td>
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<td></td>
<td>87,175</td>
<td>45,331</td>
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</table>

* Both LSA and Urban August cycle disbursements have been delayed due to pipeline breaks and the temporary suspension of activities in July.

**Stunting prevention activities have been suspended; therefore, only Maternity Waiting Home beneficiary figures are reflected here.

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### Learn more

Download:
- WFP Zimbabwe Country Strategic Plan
- WFP Zimbabwe CSP Brochure

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**Thank You To Our Donors For Their Continued Support**

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