



WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief November 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Operational Context

Humanitarian assistance has proved a lifeline for millions in Zimbabwe throughout 2020. Last year the country experienced its worst humanitarian crisis in over a decade, owing to the combined effects of recurring drought, economic deterioration and the COVID-19 pandemic. 6.9 million people, roughly half of the population, are estimated to be in need of food assistance at the peak of the lean season between January and April 2021, which includes 3.4 million people in rural areas in IPC 3 or 4 and 2.3 million in urban domains. A further 1.2 million vulnerable and food insecure people are currently receiving food assistance from WFP and partners across the country.

Zimbabwe's agricultural sector has been devastated by three consecutive years of drought, which have consistently led to poor harvests. With approximately 67% of rural households depending on the sale of their own cash crops for income, as well as for their own food consumption, climatic shocks have been the driving force behind food insecurity in rural areas. Urban dwellers, however, have predominantly been affected by sharp increases in food prices, rising inflation, and cash shortages. The overall food security situation across the country has been further compounded by the outbreak of COVID-19, as restrictive measures have increased the vulnerability of millions. Through the humanitarian-development nexus, WFP provides both emergency humanitarian and long-term resilience support to those most



Population: 14.6 million

2019 Human Development Index: 150 out of 189 countries

Income Level: Low

2020 Global Hunger Index: categorized as 'Serious'

In Numbers

6.9 million people food insecure and in need of humanitarian assistance from January to April 2021

24,775 MT food assistance procured in October 2020

US\$ 3.3 million cash-based transfers made in October 2020

US \$180 million shortfall (December 2020 – May 2021)

1.4 million people assisted in October 2020



Operational Updates

- In October, WFP's Lean Season Assistance (LSA) programme scaled up to reach 1,064,538 people across 22 rural districts with in-kind food assistance. Of the total assisted, 22,727 people also benefitted from complementary livelihoods and resilience-based activities, including trainings on poultry production, livestock managements, small grains production, asset maintenance and climate smart agriculture techniques.
- The Urban Food Security and Resilience Building programme is active in 22 urban domains across the country. A total of 326,000 people currently receive USD 12 per person, per month via value voucher or remittance exchange. The transfer value is priced to cover 62% of an individual's basic food needs. October cycle disbursements were delayed due to operational constraints; in November, beneficiaries will receive a double disbursement for the months of October and November.
- In October, WFP provided in-kind food assistance to 13,754 refugees at Tongogara Refugee Camp (TRC).
- In-kind food assistance was distributed to 40,351 people in Rushinga and Beitbridge under the recent ARC Replica insurance pay-out of US\$ 290,288, triggered by the 2019/20 drought.
- In October, WFP distributed 17.76MT of Super Cereal Plus to a total of 2,960. However, regular Stunting Prevention activities remain suspended due to resource constraints WFP continues to advocate for support to resume the programme.
- WFP hosted two seed fairs in Ward 17 and 13 of Masvingo District to improve access to inputs for smallholder farmers. A total of 12 seed companies attended the event and showcased their stress tolerant seed varieties to 977 farmers, of which 653 are women.

WFP Country Strategy

Under WFP's five-year CSP, while maintaining a strong humanitarian assistance capacity, WFP is focusing on supporting longer-term national social protection and resilience-building efforts to achieve Zero Hunger. WFP is building on its innovative work in knowledge- and evidence-generation, while increasingly focusing on strengthening the systems and institutions that are ultimately responsible for sustainably reaching Zero Hunger in Zimbabwe.

Country Strategic Plan (2017–2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Shortfalls (in USD)
468.4 m	180 m

Strategic Result 01: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 01: 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

Activities:

- **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

Strategic Result 02: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 02: Children in prioritized districts have stunting rate trends in line with the achievements of national and global targets by 2025

Activities:

- **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

Strategic Result 03: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition

Strategic Outcome 03: Smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe have increased access to well-functioning agricultural markets by 2030

Activities:

- **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

Strategic Result 04: Food systems are sustainable

Strategic Outcome 04: Food insecure rural households and smallholder farmers achieve food security and resilience to repeated exposure to multiple shocks and stressors

Activities:

- **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

Strategic Result 05: Developing Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 05: The social protection system ensures that chronically vulnerable population throughout the country are able to meet their basic needs all year round

Activities:

- **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

Strategic Result 06: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology to strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 05: Partners in Zimbabwe are reliably supported by world-class, cost-effective and efficient supply chain services

Activities:

- **Activity 6.1:** Provide logistics and procurement expertise and services

Monitoring

- WFP Zimbabwe's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) unit, in coordination with the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) team, rolled out a revised verification tool for use under the Urban Social Assistance programme. Beneficiary verifications are ongoing across all new urban domains and will be conducted on a rolling basis over the coming months. WFP maintains a robust Complaints and Feedback Mechanism (hotline, help desk, suggestion box) to ensure channels through which affected people can voice their needs and concerns.

Challenges

- COVID-19 restrictions continue to hamper international procurement processes with bottlenecks occurring at border crossing points and with customs clearances, which have resulted in commodity pipeline breaks.
- The Urban Social Assistance programme continues to face several challenges that have resulted in delayed disbursement timelines, including a shortage of small denomination bills at remittance agencies. Cash liquidity challenges have limited the number of people able to redeem their entitlements per day.
- Furthermore, the presence of COVID-19 has necessitated a phased disbursement approach in urban domains to avoid overcrowding at shops and Western Union redemption centres.
- Stunting Prevention activities are currently suspended due to resourcing constraints. Urgent funding is needed for the continued prevention and early mitigation of malnutrition.
- WFP's Support to Refugees programme will face a pipeline break in December 2020. Urgent resourcing is needed to ensure the continuation of life-saving food assistance.

Coming Up

- WFP is scaling up for the peak of the lean season, during which it will support 3.5 million people in rural areas and 550,000 people in urban domains.
- Preparations are underway for urban resilience building activities to commence in January 2021.



Donors

Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Green Climate Fund, IFAD, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, UNICEF, United Kingdom, United States