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Reports of the Executive Director on
Operational Matters

For information

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**Development Projects Approved by the Executive Director
(1 January–31 December 2016) – Zimbabwe 200946**

Empowering Smallholder Farmers to Market Drought-Resistant Grains and Pulses

Duration of project	1 July 2016–30 June 2018
Gender marker code*	2A
Cost (United States dollars)	
Capacity development and augmentation	2,742,000
Total cost to WFP	3,448,468

* <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/gm-overview-en.pdf>

Abstract

1. While Zimbabwe has made significant food security and nutrition gains, the year-on-year situation remains highly dependent upon increasingly erratic rainfall patterns that have deteriorated as a result of the El Niño phenomenon. Chronic undernutrition remains relatively high, with stunting affecting 28 percent of children under five years of age. Dietary diversity is poor and consumption of protein is insufficient. The prevalence of HIV and AIDS has declined but remains high at 13.7 percent.
2. WFP's 2016–2020 Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for Zimbabwe aims to address identified food security and nutrition challenges. It maintains WFP's strong humanitarian assistance capacity while sharpening its focus on supporting longer-term recovery and resilience-building to address the underlying causes of food insecurity and undernutrition.
3. The CSP outlines WFP's support to the Government of Zimbabwe in achieving five specific Strategic Results. This development project operationalizes Strategic Result 4: Smallholder farmers are empowered to triple the marketing of drought-resistant grains and pulses by 2025. It engages both men and women in mitigation and response efforts at the community level in order to ensure gender-responsive development.

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4. Protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200944 operationalizes Strategic Results 2, 3 and 5, focusing on meeting the needs of vulnerable persons all year round, improving vulnerable households' resilience to shocks and the efficient and effective delivery of nutrition services integrated across sectors. Strategic Result 1 aimed at strengthening the social protection system to enhance resilience for food and nutrition security among acutely and chronically vulnerable populations is operationalized through development project 200945 (whose project cycle matches this development project).
5. Together, the PRRO and these two development projects, compose the entirety of WFP's portfolio of assistance in Zimbabwe as laid out in the CSP (2016–2020), and should be viewed as a complementary set of operational vehicles that are linked with one another. Both development projects are designed to position WFP as a provider of technical assistance and focus exclusively on capacity development. No direct cash or food transfers are provided to beneficiaries through this development project.
6. This development project particularly focuses on stimulating local production and enhancing agricultural market access with a particular focus upon post-harvest handling and quality control and assurance. It is nutrition-sensitive, informed by gender and protection analyses, and applies the “do-no-harm” approach.
7. This development project is aligned with the 2013–2018 Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation, the commitments of the Malabo Declaration, the 2016–2020 United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Zimbabwe and WFP's Strategic Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4. It is structured upon the framework provided by the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 on ending hunger and also contributes towards SDG 5 and SDG 17.