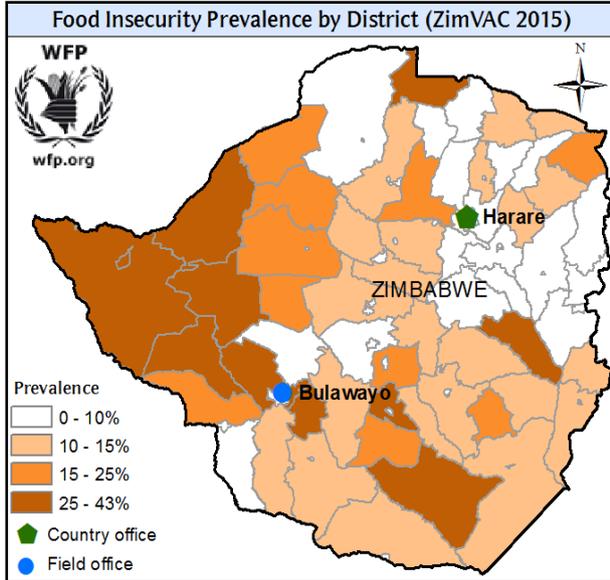




World Food Programme

## Zimbabwe:

Responding to Humanitarian Needs and Strengthening Resilience to Food Insecurity



Zimbabwe: Responding to Humanitarian Needs and Strengthening Resilience to Food Insecurity

### In numbers

**1.5 million**<sup>1</sup> people affected by food insecurity at the peak of the lean season (Jan-March 2016)

WFP, with government, plans to assist an estimated **821,460** people in **38**<sup>2</sup> districts during this season, at a cost of **US\$46.6** million.

**281,286** received WFP lean season assistance in December cycle

#### Funding Update :

**US\$19.3 million** required for WFP's lean season response through March 2016

**Contributions received** (10 January 2016):

**USAID:** US\$18.5 million

**UN CERF:** US\$4.25 million

**Switzerland:** US\$514,000

**WFP Internal Resources:** US\$4 million

In Zimbabwe, WFP supports activities that aim to develop livelihoods and augment the nutritional status of vulnerable groups, including people living with HIV and tuberculosis, pregnant & nursing mothers, and young children, by addressing the root causes of food insecurity and under-nutrition. WFP has had an operational presence in the country since 2002.

### Highlights

- Through enhanced efficiency measures, WFP has reduced the cost of delivering assistance, bringing down the total cost of its lean season response. It still requires US\$19.3 million to meet the needs through March for some 389,544 food insecure people.
- **281,286** (146,269 female and 135,017 male) people received assistance in the December distribution cycle.
- The unfolding impacts of the El Niño phenomenon, now projected to continue through March 2016 according to Zimbabwe's Meteorological Services Department, raise concerns for food security as late onset of rains, below normal rainfall, and higher than average temperatures affect 2015/16 crop production, livestock, and rural livelihoods.

### Situation Update

- The full impact of El Niño continues to be experienced across the country, including late onset of rains by 20– to 30-days in the eastern parts of the country. As of late December, most areas in the western and southern parts of the country have received less than 100 mm of rainfall—a concerning amount given that the average seasonal totals for the December to March period typically range between 450 and 650 mm of rainfall. Areas that experienced early onset of rains were affected by subsequent prolonged dry conditions and high temperatures, negatively affecting crops.
- Zimbabwe continues to face the largest national cereal deficit in the region, with a gap of around 645,000 mt<sup>3</sup>.
- Although the national average maize grain prices have remained stable at around US\$0.38/kg for the October-December 2015 quarter, this is 18 percent higher than the 5-year average.
- Communities experiencing prolonged dry conditions are reportedly panicking in view of constrained food access, including from poor vegetable production. Farmer to farmer sales have stopped, and most rely on cereal purchases for survival, with food assistance providing a major source of cereal. Livelihood options are limited, with declining opportunities for casual field labour and increased cases of livestock death. Many households have resorted to coping strategies such as skipping meals or reducing portion sizes. Some have resorted to illegal firewood sales for income.

### WFP Response

#### Lean Season Assistance (LSA)

- WFP has planned to reach an estimated 821,460 people in 38 districts during this peak period of the lean season (Jan-March). This includes through a Joint Programme with the Government of Zimbabwe, which has availed up to 30,000 mt of maize to cover assistance in 30 of the

<sup>1</sup> Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee 2015 Rural Livelihoods Assessment. Note that WFP maintains the use of ZimVAC figures applied to 2012 Census data.

<sup>2</sup> Increased from initial plan of 36 due to other actors' increased coverage in some WFP-targeted districts, thus lowering WFP's targets in these districts.

<sup>3</sup> FEWSNET Southern Africa Regional Supply Outlook, December 2015

districts. Where feasible, LSA is complemented by livelihood promotion and nutrition activities.

- With current resources, as of January, WFP will be able to cover some 431,916 people in 16 districts (please see table attached in annex). Of these, six receive in-kind food assistance and two receive cash-based transfers through USAID funding, while another eight will receive support under the Joint Programme through in-kind government maize complemented by WFP provision of pulses and oil or a cash equivalent. Implementation under the Joint Programme began in Rushinga in October, scaled up to include Bikita, Bulilima, and Chirumanzu as of the December distribution cycle, and will include four more districts as of January.

## Partnerships

- WFP continues to work with the Department of Social Services and other humanitarian actors at national and district levels to enhance coordination and complementarities in planning and monitoring lean season assistance.
- In partnership with FAO, WFP's Food Security Climate Resilience Facility (FoodSECuRE) released funding for the government to implement activities promoting climate-smart agriculture for smallholder farmers in Mwenezi district in November. Triggered by weather forecasts, the replenishable fund enables early responses to help communities withstand the impact of climatic shocks such as those linked to El Niño.
- As part of the Humanitarian Country Team's Disaster Risk Management task force, WFP is leading inter-agency contingency planning for El Niño to monitor risks and set up advanced preparedness measures for multi-sectoral action.

## LSA Resourcing Update

- Total received contributions under the LSA remained unchanged at \$27.27 million as at 10 January 2016. Contributions include US\$18.5 million from USAID, US\$4.25 million from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, US\$514,000 from the Government of Switzerland, up to 30,000 mt of in-kind maize from the Government of Zimbabwe, and US\$4 million from WFP's internal resources. These confirmed contributions will cover the needs of 431,916 food insecure people up to March 2016, leaving some 389,544 food insecure people in 22 districts without assistance unless an additional US\$19.3 million is received.



Beyond its lean season response, WFP's ongoing interventions in Zimbabwe include...

### Support to Refugees

- Some 7,380 refugees received food assistance in December at Tongogara Refugee Camp from WFP, in partnership with UNHCR and Christian Care.
- In line with WFP's global shift towards increased use of cash-based transfers where feasible and appropriate, WFP will transition to the use of cash for its refugee assistance activities for the first time in Tongogara. As informed by a recent joint assessment mission with UNHCR, preparatory work for the commencement of cash-based transfers in January are at an advanced stage.

### Health and Nutrition

- Through its Health and Nutrition programme in support of the Ministry of Health and Child Care, in December, WFP provided some 7,614 malnourished people living with HIV and/or TB, pregnant and nursing women, and children under age five with Super Cereal—a corn-soya blend fortified with vitamins and minerals—for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition at clinics in Mutasa District, Harare and Bulawayo Metropolitan Province.
- In partnership with NGOs, WFP is developing social and behavior change communication (SBCC) tools to optimize the nutritional impact of all its programme activities in 2016. SBCC messages will include promotion of diet diversity and improved infant and young child feeding practices.

### Food/Cash Assistance for Asset Creation

- Under WFP's 2015 productive asset creation (PAC) cycle, which ended in November, 114 community assets, such as small irrigation schemes and nutritional gardens, in 10 priority districts were created and rehabilitated—for which some 105,390 people (19,770 workers and their household members) received food or cash-based assistance.
- Projects are selected through a community-based participatory planning process. In 2015, over 70 percent of communities participated in the identification of the assets. The 2016 PAC cycle is planned to start in May.

WFP Operation					
Programme	Planned number of people (at peak)	Total requirements 6 months (in US\$)	Total received (in US\$)	6 month Shortfall % (US\$)	People Reached (December distribution cycle)
Lean Season Assistance	821,460	\$46,596,398	\$27,272,337	41% (\$19,324,061)	281,286
Productive Asset Creation (2016 Cycle)	100,000	\$7,405,671	0	100%	n/a
Refugees	10,000	\$2,013,158	\$400,000	80% (\$1,613,158)	7,381
Health and Nutrition	26,000	\$807,295	0	100% (\$807,295)	7,614



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