



WFP Zimbabwe

Situation Report #7

16 May 2016

In Numbers

- 2.8 million** people affected by drought
- 60** districts (all) affected
- 448,000** people received WFP lean season assistance and
- 7,655** refugees supported through April distribution cycle

Highlights

- Increased rains in March-April have marginally improved harvests in some districts, but overall crop situation remains bleak, and food insecurity is anticipated to spike as from July in all districts, as available stocks deplete.
- WFP's 2016/17 El Niño Response Plan faces a US\$43.5 million funding gap up to October 2016. A gap of US\$199 million remains for the total response through March 2017.
- Seven of the 13 districts planned to start Productive Asset Creation activities in May face a US\$7.7 million funding gap.

Beneficiaries



Funding Update

- Government Humanitarian Appeal** US\$1.5 billion (February - December 2016)
- Humanitarian Response Plan (April 2016 - March 2017)** US\$360 million Total Requirements; US\$296 million for Agriculture & Food Security
- WFP El Niño Response (April 2016 - March 2017)** US\$199 million net funding requirements of US\$229 million total value

Situation Update

- The rainfall season tailed off in April, with 45 percent of the country having received normal to above normal rainfall levels. While increased rains in March/April have led to marginal improvements on late planted crops in some areas (mainly Mashonaland), the majority face crop failure.
- Water requirement satisfaction index (WRSI) results and field observations confirm the crop situation in most areas is either poor (less than 30 percent production) or failure (complete write-off).
- Water availability and pasture conditions have improved some; however, cattle deaths (already estimated at 25,000 deaths for Oct 2015-March 2016) are likely to continue. Half of all herds face poor body and health conditions.
- While awaiting the release of the crop and livestock assessment results, faced with the prospect of a reduced cereal carry-over stock compared to last year and the five-year average (FEWSNET) and the possibility of lower cereal harvest, there is a high likelihood of a second consecutive year of below average maize supplies. WFP anticipates that 2015-16 maize production won't cover more than three months of domestic consumption requirements (of annual 1.8 million mt requirement).
- WFP has revised its food insecurity projections for May and June to an estimated 1.46 million people, reflecting the positive impact of the March/April rains in 31 districts, whilst noting little to no improvement in 29 priority districts. Projections beyond June will be updated based on the results of the 2016 ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment now underway.

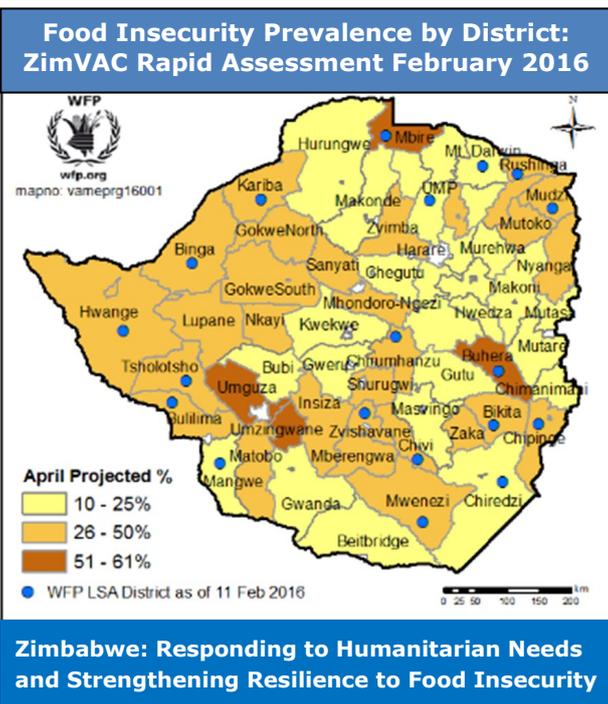


Photo: Winnie Muonekwa harvesting part of her vegetable crop from a Nutrition Garden in Mbire District. WFP/Tinashe Mubaira

WFP Response

WFP's El Niño Response Plan for the 2016/17 consumption year encompasses Lean Season Assistance (LSA) activities and a Productive Asset Creation (PAC) programme to bridge immediate relief with longer-term resilience-building interventions. The 2015/16 LSA programme was extended to April, with the 2016/17 LSA commencing as of May along with the 2016 cycle of PAC activities.



Lean Season Assistance

- Available resources enabled WFP to provide targeted food assistance to 448,000 people in 13 districts through its April distribution cycle. Of these, seven districts received all or part of the assistance through cash-based transfers, while the remaining received in-kind rations. Support in five of the districts was implemented as part of a joint programme with the Government of Zimbabwe, in which WFP provided complementary commodities of pulses and vegetable oil along with maize contributed through the government's Grain Marketing Board.
- Having revised its food insecurity projections, WFP plans to assist 420,000 people in 13 priority districts in May-June where recent rains have had no positive impact. USAID funding currently enables WFP to continue providing assistance for 196,628 people in eight districts through September 2016.
- An additional US\$43.5 million is urgently required for the next six months (May–October 2016) to achieve a planned scale up to 706,000 people by July-September and 1 million by October. These planning figures from July onward will be revised according to the results of the ZimVAC assessment expected mid-June.



Productive Asset Creation

- The 2016 cycle of WFP's Productive Asset Creation (PAC) programme will start in six of 13 planned districts as of May (reaching 67,5000 people) thanks to USAID funding.
- An additional US\$7.7 is urgently required for WFP to ensure timely programming in the remaining 7 districts. The programme aims to reach 150,000 people for a six-month period, through provision of food assistance in exchange for work to create or rehabilitate productive community assets, such as weir dams, small irrigation schemes and dip tanks, that help communities build resilience to climatic shocks.
- Assets created under previous PAC cycles continue to benefit communities. Winnie Muonekwa, a 48 year old widow, currently looks after 7 children—4 of her own and 3 other orphans left behind by her late sister. Winnie now relies on her 700m² plot she was allocated after rehabilitating the Dyaraimiti Garden in Mbire District in the 2014 PAC Programme.

"I have a big family to look after," says Winnie. "The US\$50 that I am making from this garden has helped me to send my children to school and have enough food to meet our daily needs."

Resourcing Update

- WFP's 12-month El Niño Response Plan for both LSA and PAC, valued at US\$229 million for April 2016-March 2017, continues to require US\$199 million through March 2017.
- Confirmed contributions as of 16 May include US\$20 million from USAID for 2016-17 LSA and US\$5 million for 2016 PAC activities, bringing the total USAID contributions to WFP's drought relief activities since 2015 to US\$50 million. Additional contributions received for LSA since 2015 include US\$4.25 million from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, US\$514,000 from the Government of Switzerland, \$1.1 million from Canada, up to 30,000 mt of in-kind maize from the Government of Zimbabwe, and US\$7.8 million from internal WFP resources.

Partnerships

- WFP co-leads the Food Security and Agriculture sector plan with FAO under the recently launched Humanitarian Response Plan, targeting 1.8 million people by Dec 2016. Resources enabled humanitarian actors to provide food assistance to 617,000 people in 28 districts in April of a planned 1.2 million people.
- The Food Security Climate Resilience (FoodSECuRE) facility, a weather-based funding mechanism piloted in 2015 in partnership with the government and FAO, financed a small grains production project in November to provide 550 smallholders with drought tolerant seeds and training in climate-smart agriculture. Anecdotal evidence has shown positive yields from the use of small grains and conservation agriculture techniques despite the harsh season.

Other Programmes

- WFP is providing food assistance to some 7,655 refugees residing in Tongagara refugee camp through April distributions, including to 250 new arrivals. Whilst providing in-kind food to chronically ill refugees and new arrivals, WFP planned to assist 7,100 of these through cash-based transfers. Liquidity challenges affecting availability of cash in the country, however, has caused delays in April cash distributions. The programme is fully funded through September, thereafter requiring US\$977,930 to ensure continued support through March 2017.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, WFP provided assistance for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition to nearly 2,500 pregnant and nursing women, children, and people living with HIV and/or TB. Some 5,600 children aged between 6-23 months received assistance through the prevention of stunting programme in Mutasa district. Both programmes require US\$402,360 up to October 2016.

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WFP Operations

	Planned number of people (at peak)	6 Months Funding Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Months Short-fall (in USD)	People Reached (April distribution cycle)
Lean Season Assistance	2.2 million (by Jan-March 2017)	69,068,576	25,594,065	43,474,510	448,000*
Productive Asset Creation	150,000	12,700,469	5,000,000	7,700,469	n/a
Support to Refugees	10,000	977,932	875,491	102,441	7,655*
Health & Nutrition	26,000	1,074,850	672,489	402,362	8,099

*Reflects figures for April distribution cycle; however, logistical issues affecting arrival of LSA commodities in country and liquidity issues affecting cash distributions for refugees necessitate the completion of distributions in early weeks of May.

El Niño Response Timeline

The below timelines portray WFP's 2016/17 El Niño Response plan, encompassing both Lean Season Assistance and Productive Asset Creation activities. Planned targets are based on projected levels of food insecurity and recognition of other actors capacity to respond. Food insecurity estimates used for this period are based on the January 2016 ZimVAC rapid assessment baseline combined with analysis of current crop conditions, weather forecasts, and historical trends, and will be updated with the results of the 2016 ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment, expected mid-June 2016.

