



WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief

Highlights

- The 2017/18 Lean Season Assistance programme cycle commenced in October, initially targeting 175,000 people in 13 Districts; the programme will scale up to reach 482,000 in January through March 2018.
- WFP began procuring 710 mt of sorghum and cow peas from local suppliers as part of efforts to strengthen local procurement platforms in the country.
- The R4 rural resilience initiative preparatory work is progressing, including the design of the insurance component and engagement of local insurance companies.
- In partnership with the Government, WFP supported the Government-led launch of District Risk Profiles for 60 rural districts.

WFP Assistance

Country Strategic Plan	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
CSP (April 2017 – Dec 2021)	255.3 m	42.2m	46.7m

*October 2017 - March 2018

GENDER MARKER CSP 2017 - 2021

WFP's Country Strategic Plan (2017 – 2021)

This five-year plan replaces previous humanitarian and development programme categories. Under this plan, while maintaining its strong humanitarian assistance capacity, WFP will focus on supporting longer-term national social protection and resilience-building efforts to achieve Zero Hunger under six strategic focus areas.

Strategic Outcome 1 - With a focus on crisis response, WFP is supporting food-insecure people, including refugees, in the most affected districts to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements during severe seasonal shocks or other crises through the Lean Season Assistance (LSA) programme and Support to Refugees. Informed by the findings of the 2017 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) Rural livelihoods assessment – which estimated that 647,630 people would be food insecure for the period October to December 2017 – WFP, under the LSA programme, provided assistance to 172,505 people in October (covering 13 districts), with plans to assist 482,000 people from January through March 2018.

Together with UNHCR and Terre des Hommes, in October, WFP assisted 10,868 refugees residing in the Tongogara Refugee Camp by providing food assistance to the general refugee population.

Strategic Outcome 2 - WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Child Care, aims to address the root causes of undernutrition in the long term by improving the diets of young children, increasing access to low-cost fortified foods, reducing stunting and micronutrient deficiencies among children aged 6-23 months, and optimizing the government's nutrition programming. Working under the framework of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, WFP supports government efforts to build evidence for nutrition advocacy, policy and programme decision-making. Through a partnership with

UNFPA and the Ministry of Health and Child Care, WFP is providing food and nutrition support for women in Maternal Waiting Homes and Fistula Repair Camps in Zimbabwe. The Health and Nutrition activity funded by PEPFAR continues to register a decline in participants due to successful nutrition rehabilitation, with 8,214 people assisted in October, a decline from 9,212 in September.

Strategic Outcome 3 - WFP is supporting smallholder farmers to have increased access to well-functioning agricultural markets by 2030. Leveraging its expertise in local and regional procurement and its experience with Purchase for Progress, WFP is working with the Government and traders to provide a structured market for national commodity traders and smallholder farmers, with the benefit of stimulating local markets by supporting the development of a local food marketing and procurement mechanisms, including through leveraging its own purchasing power.

Strategic Outcome 4 - WFP aims to enhance the livelihoods of the most food-insecure rural households by developing and rehabilitating productive assets, such as dams, dip tanks and gardens, to achieve food security and demonstrate resilience to seasonal shocks and stressors. The Productive Assets Creation (PAC) programming is currently assisting 81,990 people.

Strategic Outcome 5 - WFP is supporting the Government in improving national institutions and systems with a view to enhancing the quality and outcomes of humanitarian responses in the short term and minimizing the need for humanitarian responses in future. Amongst others, WFP is also supporting the re-establishment of the National School Meals Programme.

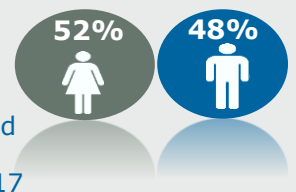
Strategic Outcome 6 - WFP is providing cost-effective and efficient logistics and procurement expertise and services to partners for humanitarian support.

In Numbers

272,563 received WFP Assistance

10,868 refugees assisted

People Assisted October 2017



Main Credit: WFP/Tinashe Mubaira

Photo Caption: Members of the Sekenende Fish Ponds Cooperative in Masvingo weigh their harvest from an asset created in 2014 through PAC.



October 2017

Operational Updates

- WFP assisted 81,990 people in October with Food Assistance for Assets as they worked under the PAC programme on assets that will strengthen their resilience to shocks and their livelihoods. The decline in the number of people assisted compared to the previous month (98,399) is due to a delayed start of activities in some areas as a result of the unavailability of timely funding during the start of the programme. Some districts will consequently wind up activities in November and December.
- LSA commenced in October, targeting 172,505 people in 13 districts. Distributions for the October cycle were completed during the first week of November, after delays in finalisation of partner agreements. Districts earmarked for cash transfers used cash-in-transit during this first cycle, pending finalisation of contracts with retailers for e-voucher districts and registration on the mobile platforms for mobile transfer districts.
- Through the support of the Swiss Development Agency for Cooperation and France, preparatory work for implementation of the R4 rural resilience initiative in Zimbabwe is well underway, with the design of the insurance component with support from the IRI University of Columbia and the selection of a local insurance company partner currently ongoing.
- Building on its momentum of locally procuring commodities from smallholder farmers as part of efforts to strengthen the local procurement platform, WFP is now procuring 710mt of sorghum and cow peas from local suppliers, with delivery for the commodities earmarked for November.
- The Support to Refugees assisted 10,868 people at TRC through cash and in-kind assistance. A pilot program of livelihood activities has commenced to provide an income source for the refugees at the camp.
- The PEPFAR-supported activities under Health and Nutrition in Harare scaled up the number of distribution points from eight to 15, allowing clients easier access. 8,214 people were assisted through the PEPFAR support in October.

Challenges

- In order to fully implement its 2017/18 LSA programme, as well as to also support a host of activities under its portfolio designed to build and strengthen the resilience of the communities, WFP requires USD22.3 million to fully resource its activities between December 2017 and May 2018.

Partnerships

- WFP supported the Government of Zimbabwe through the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) to launch the District Risk profiles on the 31st October 2017. These profiles are a key tool that provides evidence-based information designed to assist Government and development partners to understand the manifestation of the current food security and livelihood challenges at lower levels - in a bid to not only provide deeper understanding of local context and livelihoods, but among others to also enhance government institutions' capacities to ensure a national integrated food and nutrition security information system that provides timely and reliable information on the food and nutrition security situation and the effectiveness of programmes and informs decision-making.

Country Background & Strategy



Over the last decade, Zimbabwe has experienced a number of unprecedented economic and environmental shocks and stresses, contributing to a 2015 Global Hunger Index classified as 'serious.' 62.6 percent of Zimbabweans live below the poverty line. Following a poor 2014-15 harvest season, severe drought in 2015-16 has further undermined the agricultural sector, with dire consequences for a population in which 80 percent of people derive a significant proportion of their livelihoods from rain-fed agriculture and livestock production. Micronutrient deficiencies are prevalent, including a 70 percent prevalence of anaemia among children under two, largely driven by poor dietary diversity. Although declining, the prevalence of HIV remains the fifth highest in the world, at 13.7 percent.

WFP's Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021) targets the multiple root causes of chronic food insecurity and poverty in Zimbabwe. While preserving WFP's humanitarian response capacity, it promotes a shift towards resilience-building efforts, and includes emphasis on reducing stunting, strengthening social protection systems, and empowering smallholder farmers. WFP has been present in Zimbabwe since 2002.

Population: **14 million**

2016 Human Development Index:
154 out of 188

Income Level: **Low income**

Chronic malnutrition: **27% of children between 6-59 months**

Top Donors (2015-2017)

United States, UN Central Emergency Fund, Japan, Zimbabwe, Switzerland, Canada, the Netherlands, ECHO, Australia, Russia, China, France

Contact info: Tinashe Mubaira (Tinashe.Mubaira@wfp.org)

Country Director: Eddie Rowe

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/zimbabwe