HIGHLIGHTS:

♦ As WFP Zimbabwe’s current Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2017-2021 will draw to a close in March 2022, we are beginning to design the next CSP. WFP looks forward to bringing our partners in the coming months to shape the direction of WFP’s work in Zimbabwe for the next five year period.

♦ To minimise risk of contracting COVID-19 and accessibility challenges, as weather forecast predicted continued rains, five districts, received double rations for the month of January and February.

Spotlight: WFP scales up its Lean Season Assistance

While WFP had planned to support 3.5 million food insecure people facing suffering from “crisis” and “emergency” levels of food insecurity (IPC 3 and 4) at the peak of the lean season, WFP is now prioritizing providing assistance to the 1.5 million most vulnerable and food insecure.

Informed by findings of the ZimVAC rural livelihood assessments and the IPC analysis, in January, WFP scaled up assistance in the 22 districts it was providing assistance in, while also extending assistance to an additional 2 additional districts, bringing the total number of districts reached to 24.

For many families, WFP’s assistance represents a lifeline at this time. In rural areas, stocks from last year’s harvest are dwindling and this year’s harvest has not yet taken place, while in urban areas the second COVID-19 lockdown has been taking its toll on informal livelihoods since it was put in place on January 5th. An estimated 1.2 million people would have fallen into crisis were it not for the food assistance they currently receive from WFP.

One family receiving support is that of 34-year-old Shamiso. In Bikita district, she and her children have been receiving food assistance from WFP through the Lean Season Assistance Programme. “The assistance from WFP came at a time when we had nowhere to turn for help. I had exhausted all options, even begging,” she said.

The challenges she faces are reflective of the complex humanitarian crises unfolding throughout Zimbabwe. Shamiso’s undermined opportunities to earn money through casual work, such as housekeeping or constructing the local dam, have dried up since the pandemic, and whatever money she does earn quickly loses value and must be used for food and school fees. “I have to work extra hard to make sure I will manage to buy the basic commodities,” she says. “Once, after getting paid, my money lost value and I couldn’t even buy salt, so, I had to go back and work again.”

The family now stays with Shamiso’s mother-in-law in Mupamawonde village, and she harvests what she can from her maize and small grains crops—in between droughts and heavy rains. “Even finding drinking water was a challenge for us during the dry season. Then, if there is rain, it floods our fields, sweeping away our crops. The rains are never adequate - it’s either too much or too little,” she says.

Thanks to her monthly WFP in-kind food basket 1.5kgs of pulses, 7.5kgs of cereals and 0.75kgs of oil for each of Shamiso’s family members, they are now able to eat 3 meals a day. To give beneficiaries a greater range of choice, WFP may provide its assistance via other modalities such as cash-based transfers, in the future if conditions permit. In the meantime, WFP needs to continue procuring commodities given unstable COVID-19 operating environment.
WFP’s Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021) Activity Updates

STRATEGIC OUTCOME SO1: ENSURE FOOD SECURITY

- Under WFP’s Lean Season Assistance (LSA) programme, 1,096,555 people of the 1,167,441 target received assistance under the January distribution cycle, representing an achievement rate of 98%.

- Under WFP’s Urban Social Assistance programme, 307,000 people of the 326,004 target received assistance under the January disbursement cycle, representing an achievement rate of 94%. Cash-based transfers continue to be delivered via e-voucher and remittance modalities. Urban disbursements continue to be affected by the COVID-19 lockdown and cash shortages at select retailers.

- In January, WFP provided food assistance to 13,798 refugees at Tongogara Refugee Camp.

SO2: HEALTH & NUTRITION

- WFP is procuring computers, in partnership with UNFPA, for the Government of Zimbabwe’s Maternity Waiting Homes. The computers will be used to support information management and digitization of records, allowing for more adequate nutrition-sensitive programming.

SO3: SUPPORT TO SMALLHOLDERS

- The receipt and delivery of crop inputs through the Small Grains Project commenced in January. Sorghum and cow pea seeds and fertilizer were distributed to the most vulnerable of the targeted 40,000 beneficiaries. Contributions of these inputs have been delayed due to supply constraints.

SO4: RESILIENCE TO SEASONAL SHOCKS

- A project agreement for the Green Climate Fund with the Government was signed. The project will be in effect as of February 2021.

- Preparations for the R4 baseline and outcome monitoring surveys, as well as the R4/LSA nexus reviewing exercise was completed. Data collection will commence when the COVID-19 context permits.

SO5: SOCIAL PROTECTION

- WFP is participating in the Government’s Voluntary National Reviews of progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. WFP is supporting the process with resources and technical assistance.

SO6: SUPPLY CHAIN SUPPORT

- WFP’s Supply Chain is proactively collaborating with national authorities, logistics service providers and partner organisations to maintain operations delivering food to beneficiaries whilst the country entered a new Phase 4 COVID-19 lockdown.

In Focus: Strengthening the last mile of food distributions

Food security exists when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The four pillars of food security are food availability, access to food, utilization and stability.

With the recent rains in most parts of the country, some infrastructure has been destroyed including roads and bridges. This means that the last mile of WFP’s food delivery efforts has been disturbed, and access to food affected.

In response, WFP has erected a Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) in Chipinge at the Tongogara Refugee Camp to make sure that food is available for the refugees in Zimbabwe.

Nyamajana Faradya, a refugee from Democratic Republic of Congo, said she was glad to see the tent set up, especially during the pandemic.

“This means we will have our food in stock and here at the right time. This is so important especially in this rainy season,” she said.

The erected MSU has the capacity to store up to 300 metric tonnes of commodities. Setting up this new MSU allows for the safe storage of WFP food commodities. The storage unit will also strengthen the coexistence of refugees and their host community. It can be used to preposition commodities to allow for timely distributions in nearby wards through the Lean Season Assistance Programme.
### WFP Operations

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>6 Months CSP Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February—July 2021)</th>
<th>People Assisted (January 2021)</th>
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<th>Male</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CSP TOTAL</strong> (April 2017-Dec 2021)</td>
<td>468,404,321</td>
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<td>Food Assistance for Assets</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*This figure is inclusive of Maternity Waiting Home (MWH) activities only. Stunting prevention activities are suspended.*

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**Contacts**

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**Learn more**

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**WFP Zimbabwe Country Strategic Plan Update #43  
17 February 2021**

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