



WFP EVALUATION

Evaluation of Zimbabwe WFP Country Strategic Plan 2022–2026

Informal Consultation of the WFP Executive Board – September 2026



World Food
Programme

SAVING
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CHANGING
LIVES

Country Strategic Plan overview

Challenges WFP aimed to address:

- Food insecurity: 57% of rural households; 35% urban households
- Recurrent climate shocks

CSP focused on:

- Lean season assistance to vulnerable rural households
- Cash & food assistance to refugee population
- Resilience building in vulnerable rural and urban areas
- National system strengthening



Summary of key insights



Insight 1: Strategic positioning

- **WFP key enabler & complementary provider for humanitarian assistance**
- **WFP role evolved** – from direct assistance to supporting government-led interventions
- **An early & visible role re: urban vulnerability** & supporting the Zimbabwe Livelihoods Assessment Committee
- **Comparative advantages in rural resilience** not always evident to partners



Insight 2: Results

- **Emergency response:** Urban & rural beneficiaries increased meal frequency & diversity. Refugees remained more vulnerable
- **Resilience:** WFP helped improve short-term livelihoods & food security for vulnerable – but gains insufficient given shocks
- **System strengthening:** Shock-responsive social protection, key strategies, targeting & digital systems all improved
- **Assistance delivered safely & transparently** but some barriers for people with disabilities



Insight 3: Challenges

- **Refugee populations remained more vulnerable** – higher dependency on humanitarian assistance
- Reconciling **vulnerability-based targeting, access & operational independence** sometimes challenging
- **Effectiveness, sustainability and scalability of resilience programming** hindered by recurring shocks & funding (earmarked, short-term)

Recommendations

1

Shift WFP's crisis-response role from large-scale humanitarian delivery to strengthening nationally led systems (retaining ability to respond where needed)

2

Concentrate rural and urban resilience programming on interventions with demonstrated effectiveness and sustainability

3

Support the institutionalization of evidence-based targeting and social protection systems within government frameworks