



WFP EVALUATION



**World Food
Programme**

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Evaluation of Zimbabwe WFP Country Strategic Plan 2017-2021

Centralized Evaluation Report

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Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

Evaluation features

1. Country strategic plan (CSP) evaluations are the primary instrument for providing accountability and meeting learning needs in accordance with the expectations of the Board and WFP management. They provide evidence of WFP's strategic positioning and results to inform the design of the next generation of CSPs and potentially contribute to the design of United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks.
2. The evaluation of the Zimbabwe CSP for 2017–2021 covered WFP interventions between 2015 and 2020 to assess continuity from the previous programme cycle, the extent to which the CSP introduced strategic shifts and the implications of such shifts for performance and results. The users of the evaluation are the WFP country office and its internal and external stakeholders, including beneficiaries.
3. The evaluation adopted a mixed-methods approach and a concurrent triangulation design, drawing on multiple sources of evidence, including documentary evidence, performance data, budget data and key informant interviews. Due to travel restrictions related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, most of the data was collected remotely, in November and December 2020, although the Zimbabwe-based evaluation team member visited project sites. Findings, conclusions and recommendations were discussed with stakeholders during two online workshops in April 2021.

Context

4. Zimbabwe is a landlocked, resource-rich, low-income, food-deficit country with a population of 14.9 million¹ that is predominantly rural (68 percent)² and young (62 percent under the age of 25).³
5. Zimbabwe was hit by several major disasters during the CSP period and as a result has some of the highest levels of food insecurity in sub-Saharan Africa.⁴ In 10 of the last 11 years, over 1 million people in rural areas have been assessed as requiring food assistance (Figure 1).

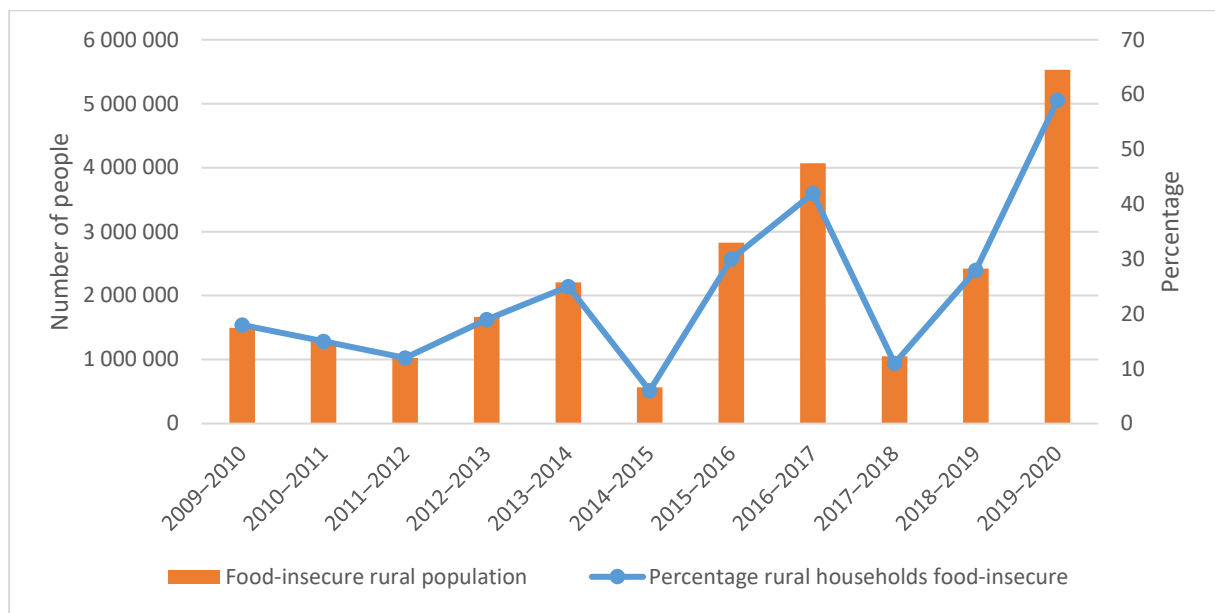
¹ United Nations Population Fund. 2021. [World Population Dashboard](#). (accessed on 28 January 2021).

² World Bank Group. 2018. [Rural Population \(% of total population\) – Zimbabwe](#). (accessed on 28 January 2021).

³ United Nations Population Fund. 2019. [Young People](#). (accessed on 28 January 2021).

⁴ World Bank Group. 2019. [Joint Needs Assessment for Zimbabwe: Identifying Challenges and Needs](#).

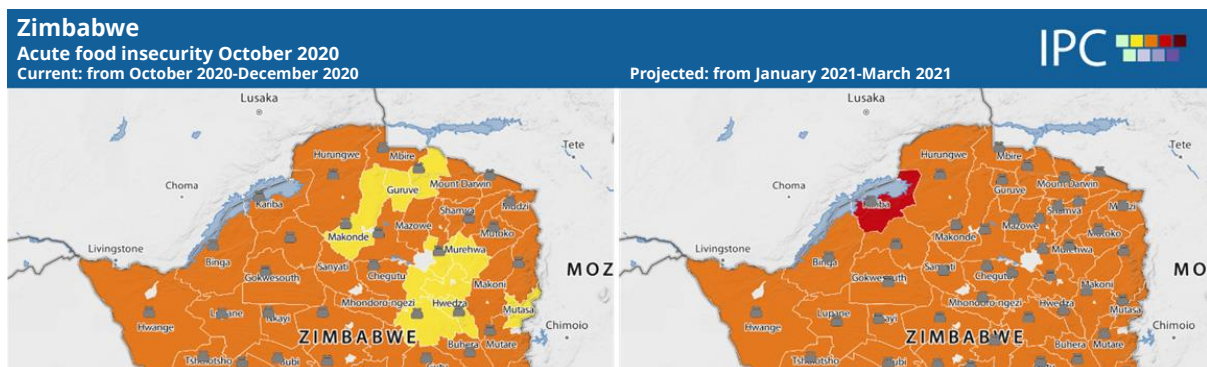
Figure 1: Rural population assessed as requiring food assistance (2009–2020)



Source: Evaluation team, calculation based on the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee Rural Livelihoods Assessment (2009–2019).

6. The food security situation in Zimbabwe deteriorated over the period of the CSP. In October 2020, 2.6 million people (27 percent of the analysed population) in rural Zimbabwe were in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) phase 3 or above, while nearly 2.9 million people (30 percent) were “stressed” (phase 2). By December 2020, the majority of the country was in “crisis” (phase 3 or higher) (see figure 2).

Figure 2. Zimbabwe food insecurity situation (October–December 2020 (left); January–March 2021 (right))



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