MARCH 2026

ZIMBABWE

Humanitarian Context Overview

Weak La Nina conditions, persistent food insecurity, macroeconomic shocks, public health risks and humanitarian reset continue to drive complex humanitarian needs across all 10 provinces of Zimbabwe.

LHAF
LOCAL HUMANITARIAN ACTORS FORUM
A collaborative platform for local NGOs in Zimbabwe

Sources: OCHA GHO 2025/2026 · WFP · FEWS NET · UNICEF · ZimLAC

SCALE OF THE CRISIS

Key humanitarian indicators — Zimbabwe 2024/2025

7.6M
People Highly Food Insecure (ZimLAC 2024)

57%
Rural Population Food Insecure (Jan–Mar 2025)

3.1M
People Targeted by Drought Flash Appeal

26%
Children Stunted (chronic malnutrition)

610k
People affected by Flash flooding

11%
Flash Appeal Funded (as of late 2024)

Government declared a nationwide state of disaster in April 2024 following the worst El Niño drought in decades.

DRIVERS OF THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Climate and Environmental Situation

Rainfall variability driven by **weak La Nina** with normal to above normal rains

Localised flooding, waterlogging and infrastructure damage early season (610k affected, 70 fatalities, 3231 destroyed houses)

Intermittent **dry spells** and **rising temperatures** stressed rain-fed crops

Macroeconomic Instability, Gvt Polices & Shrinking Funding

Continued market exchange pressures, high food and fuel prices, and limited employment erode household purchasing power.

Restrictive Policies, e.g., Private Voluntary Organisation ACT

Shrinking Funding: US funding withdrawal, others following suit - SIDA

WASH Failures

Low access to safe water and inadequate **sanitation** heighten the exposure to disease outbreaks (eg the recurrent Cholera), especially in dense urban areas

Compounded by poor service delivery on waste management.

Structural Vulnerabilities

Nearly half the population lives in **extreme poverty**. Female-headed households, youth, persons with disabilities and informal workers are disproportionately affected. 16,000 refugees at Tongogara face funding gaps.

Sources: FEWS NET Food Security Outlook Oct 2024–May 2025 · UNICEF Zimbabwe Situation Reports 2024 · WFP Zimbabwe Country Brief

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING GAPS (2024–2026)

Massive shortfalls leave millions unserved and limit emergency scale-up

73% GAP

2024–2025 Flash Appeal US$429M required, only 27% funded

1.5M REACHED

Out of 3.1M targeted by the Flash Appeal

93% GAP

UNICEF 2025 HAC Appeal US$34M shortfall

US$8.8M

Total 2026 funding received as of 13 March 2026

FLASH APPEAL SHORTFALL	With nearly three-quarters of the Flash Appeal unfunded, key sectors like food security, WASH, and protection could not scale as planned.
UNICEF ACTION FOR CHILDREN (HAC)	Received only US$2.5M against a US$36.5M requirement, severely limiting cholera response, school feeding, and child protection services.
2026 INFLOWS EXTREMELY LOW	Early 2026 shows limited funding (US$8.8M), with heavily imbalanced allocations. 40% of all 2026 funds (US$3.5M) went to WFP, showing dependence on food security agencies, while WASH, education, and protection received virtually nothing.

Sources: OCHA · FTS March 2026 · UNICEF HAC 2025

SECTOR-SPECIFIC GAPS & VULNERABLE GROUPS

Disproportionate underfunding drives acute risks in health, water, and nutrition

WASH – CRITICAL GAP (47%)

Only 52.9% of the target was reached
Cholera outbreaks ongoing.

NUTRITION – SEVERE GAP (66%)

Only 34.26% of target reached.

EDUCATION

Infrastructure damage and response severely underfunded.

FOOD SECURITY

83% of 1.5M target reached, but funding remains far below actual dollar requirements.

MILLIONS LEFT BEHIND

1.6 million

People targeted for urgent assistance remain entirely unserved due to these funding gaps.

HIGHEST-RISK POPULATIONS

- Children under five (malnutrition and disease)
- Rural poor and flood-affected communities
- Women and girls (facing rising Gender-Based Violence cases)
- Urban poor (struggling with soaring food and fuel prices)

Sources: OCHA · FEWS NET · NewsDay Reporting

OUTLOOK & PRIORITY ACTIONS

NEAR-TERM RISK

IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) conditions expected to expand in early 2026 as households deplete own-produced food stocks. Poor purchasing power continues to constrain access to staple cereals. Shrinking humanitarian funding.

POSITIVE SIGNAL

Above-average rainfall (Oct 2025 – Feb 2026). A favourable 2025/26 harvest is forecast, potentially improving food security from April/May 2026.

PRIORITY ACTION

Urgently close the $429M Flash Appeal funding gap. Scale up cash transfers, therapeutic feeding, WASH infrastructure rehabilitation and social protection to prevent catastrophic outcomes.

RESILIENCE

Shift from emergency response to shock-responsive social protection. Invest in climate-smart agriculture, food systems strengthening, anticipatory action and community-level early warning to build long-term resilience.

CALL TO ACTION

Fund the response.

Reach the vulnerable.

Build resilience.

Sources: FEWS NET Dec 2025 Outlook · WFP Zimbabwe · OCHA GHO 2026 · UNICEF Zimbabwe 2025