Foreword

The 2019 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) report projected that 59% of the rural population would be cereal insecure during the peak hunger period (January to March 2020). This food insecurity prevalence translated to a population of about 5.5 million rural people. There was need for urgent food distribution or cash based transfers (to promote the local economy where feasible) to food insecure households in order to avoid a worsening situation.

The ZimVAC, acting as the technical advisory committee on assessments, undertook a Food and Nutrition Security Update with the broad objective of assessing the response to food and nutrition insecurity during the peak hunger period in Zimbabwe. collected data using a 3 pronged approach, that is, review of existing food and nutrition secondary data and District Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and a household survey. This report is a summation of the findings. Sincere gratitude and appreciation is being extended to all national, provincial, district level structures and the community at large for their active participation in the whole exercise.

We want to acknowledge the financial and technical support received from the Government of Zimbabwe and Development Partners. Without this support, the 2020 Food and Nutrition Security Update would not have been a success. We submit this report with the hope that it will guide and inform programming and decision making.

George D. Kembo (Dr)
FNC Director/ ZimVAC Chairperson
Acknowledgement of Support

ZIMBABWE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>EA</td>
<td>Enumeration Area</td>
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<td>FGD</td>
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Acknowledgements

The technical and financial support received from the following is greatly appreciated:

- Office of the President and Cabinet
- Food and Nutrition Council
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
- Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT)
- Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement
- Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Health and Child Care
- Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement
- Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing
- Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-ZRBF)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)
- Department For International Development (DFID)
- Meteorological Services Department (MSD)
- Oxfam
- UNICEF
- ZRBF -Melana
- World Vision
- ENTERPRIZE EXTRA
- FEWSNET
- Care
- Caritas
- TSURO Trust
- Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
- MDTC
- Sizimile
- Goal
- Red Cross
- Red Cross
- Amalima
- ADRA
- Rural District Councils
- CTDO
- LID Agency
- Save the Children
- Jointed Hands Welfare Organisation
- Centre for Conflict Management and Transformation
- Jairosi Jiri Association
- Lutheran Development Services (LDS)
- Africare
- Lower Guruve Development Association
- HOCIC
- JF Kapnek Trust
- ENTERPRIZE
Background and Methodology
Background

• The 2019 ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) report projected rural food insecurity to reach 59% during the peak hunger period (January to March 2020). This food insecurity prevalence translated to about 5.5 million rural people.

• The Government and its Development Partners launched a humanitarian appeal in July 2019 to support the vulnerable households.

• Government committed to ensure no one suffers from hunger and started implementing a combination of social protection initiatives.

• The ZimVAC May 2019 projection had used a number of assumptions in developing this most likely scenario, some of which may have changed due to the prevailing economic conditions the country is going through.
The Government set in motion a Transitional Stabilization Programme (TSP) in a bid to set the economy on a recovery path after years of stagnation.

Operationalization of Government's Vision 2030 which seeks to transform Zimbabwe into an upper middle-income country with a monthly per capita income of USD 3 500 per person.

The programme focuses on the following factors:

- Stabilizing the macro-economy, and the financial sector;
- Introducing necessary policy and institutional reforms to translate to a private sector-led economy;
- Addressing infrastructure gaps and launching quick-wins to stimulate growth.
- Stimulating domestic production, exports, rebuilding and transforming the economy to an upper middle income status by 2030.

As Zimbabwe is going through a radical economic transformation that is supposed to see the country becoming an upper middle-income economy by 2030, a number of challenges militate against this positive trajectory.
The Zimbabwean economy contracted in 2019 by an estimated 6.5%, weighed down by exogenous shocks in the form of the El-Nino induced drought and the destruction caused by Cyclone Idai (Monetary Policy Statement, 2020).

Casual labour opportunities for the rural population were negatively affected by the late start of the 2019/20 rainfall season.

Cash shortages continue to have negative impact on livelihoods in both rural and urban areas. The use of the 3-tier pricing system contributed to distorted prices of goods and services.

Poverty continues to be one of the major underlying causes of vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity as well as precarious livelihoods in Zimbabwe. According to the ZIMSTAT Poverty, Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey 2017 Report, 70.5% of the population were poor whilst 29.3% were deemed extremely poor.

According to the rainfall records from 1 October to 31 December 2019, most parts of the country received less than 75% of their long-term mean rainfall and were therefore in the below normal category (MSD, 2020).

Poor rainfall distribution was compounded by the unaffordability of key agricultural inputs such as seed, fertilisers and herbicides. Consequently, the area planted to major crops in the 2019/20 season was lower in most areas compared to the same time in the previous season.
Objectives

The Food and Nutrition Security Update was conducted with the broad objective of assessing the response to food and nutrition insecurity during the peak hunger period in Zimbabwe. The specific objectives were:

- To assess the state of food and nutrition security within the rural areas.
- To determine market functionality in Zimbabwe in the 2019/20 consumption year.
- To describe the socio-economic profiles of households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, access to basic services (education, health services and water facilities), assets, income sources, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies.
- To determine the coverage and impact of food access and resilience building interventions.
- To identify viable response interventions to communities.
Methodology – Sampling and Sample Size

- The assessment process comprised the following components;
  - appropriate secondary data review and analysis;
  - a district level group key informant interview in each of the country’s rural districts
  - Household interviews in randomly selected wards
- The district Focus Group Discussions informed the selection of wards for detailed household questionnaire administration.
- Each rural district was divided into three categories i.e. better-off, average and worse-off wards. From the three categories, six wards were randomly selected (two from each category) and one village was then randomly selected from the each of the six wards.
- Seventeen households per village were randomly selected for household interviews, bringing the total to 102 households per district.
- A team comprising of four members selected from the DFNSCs/Drought Relief Committee administered 102 household questionnaires to randomly selected households from the wards in the district in terms of the food and nutrition security situation. Anthropometric measurements were also taken from all children aged 6-59 months within the sampled households.
- In addition to the above, field observations and secondary data review yielded valuable information that was used in the analysis and writing of the assessment report.
Data Collection and Analysis Process

• All primary data was electronically captured using Microsoft Excel, CS-Pro and SPSS was used as the primary analytical software.

• Data analysis and reporting was done by the ZimVAC national technical team.

• Data analysis was done using SPSS, ENA, complemented by Ms Excel and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) packages.

• Relevant conceptual frameworks (where available) informed the analysis of the different thematic areas.

• Secondary data from various sources was reviewed to contextualise the results.
Thematic Areas

- Policy Environment
- Social Protection
- 2019/20 Agricultural Season
- Livestock and Grazing Conditions
- Water Situation
- Food and Livestock Markets
- Income Sources and Livelihoods Coping Strategies
- Food and Nutrition Security Interventions
- Food Availability and Consumption Patterns
- Health and Child Nutrition
- Shocks and Hazards
Enabling Policy Environment
(High-Level Political Will In Addressing Livelihoods Challenges)
Government’s Commitment to Addressing Food and Nutrition Insecurity

Voluminous evidence of the Government’s implementation of the country’s constitutional aspirations on the the right to adequate food and nutrition coupled with access to basic healthcare and social services in terms of article 15 a, b and c; article 19 (2) (b), article 21 (2) (b) and article 77b.

Section 77 (b) states that, “every person has the right to sufficient food, and the state must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within the limits of the resources available to it, to achieve the progressive realization of this right”.

The Government is commended for implementing the following measures to ensure food security for all people

• **Launch of the Humanitarian Appeal** - The Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) and its development partners launched a Humanitarian Appeal covering the period from February 2019 - April 2020 and aimed at addressing the food insecurity and the impact of inflationary pressures.

• **Supporting the vulnerable groups** – the Government and its development partners are distributing food aid (in-kind) and implemented cash transfer programmes to vulnerable rural households;

• **Removing restrictions on food importation** - Government removed import duty on maize and wheat, cooking oil, among other basic commodities, to ensure affordability of essential foodstuffs and to mitigate the effects of the drought experienced in the 2018-2019 season;

• **Food Subsidies** – Government continued implementing social protection measure to improve food access as evidenced by the maize meal subsidies.
Government’s Commitment to Addressing Food and Nutrition Insecurity Cont....

• **Distribution of farming inputs** – Government continued supporting farmers through providing access to agricultural inputs, *e.g.* Command Agriculture and Presidential Input Scheme programmes.

• **Grain importation** – Government lifted the ban on private grain sales and granted the nod to individuals and corporates with free funds to import quantities of their choice to complement Treasury’s efforts in ensuring adequate national grain reserves.

• **Allowing importation of GMO maize** - Government lifted a ban on importation of genetically modified maize the first time in 12 years to avert the food insecurity situation. The imported grain is quarantined and milled under supervision;

• **Access to consumptive water** – Treasury released $46 million to the District Development Fund (DDF) to help drill 600 boreholes that will provide clean water for consumption and irrigation, especially in the country's eight rural provinces;

• Government opened up space for developing partners to contribute and assist.

• All these efforts of the GoZ and its development partners show the dedication to ensure that no one suffers from hunger.
Strengthening Multi-Sectoral Structures

Government activated the following multi-sectoral structures to coordinate the implementation of the food and nutrition security response:

• Inter-Ministerial Cabinet Committee for Food and Nutrition Security, Chaired by the Honorable Vice President

• Inter-Ministerial Grain Importation Committee, Chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

• Internal Logistics and Distribution of Grain Committee, Chaired by Ministry of Local Government

• Working Party of Permanent Secretaries

• Food Aid Working Group, Chaired by Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and co-chaired by the World Food Programme

• National Food and Nutrition Security Committee

• District Food and Nutrition Security Committees and District Drought Relief Committees

• Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committees (inclusive of local leadership including local Councilors and Chiefs)
Social Protection
• The Government is commended for an active response to the prevailing food and nutrition insecurity. More than 75% of the rural districts received over 50% of support from Government. In other districts such as Beitbridge, Shurugwi and Mangwe, to mention a few, there has been more than 100% food aid to the projected vulnerable households. Complementing this efforts is the partner support. A number of development partners are providing food aid across the country to complement Government efforts.
The combination of efforts by Government and development partners has seen the majority of districts receiving food aid able to support the ZimVAC projected food insecure population. Thus, the majority of districts’ food assistance is covering more than 100% of the projected food insecure people.

The country still has a number of districts not receiving adequate food assistance.

However, there is still need to improve on the accountability and management of beneficiaries. In some cases, the more than 100% coverage could be attributed to double counting.
• Nationally, 78% of sampled households received social assistance from different sources in 2020. This was an increase from 69% recorded in 2019.

• There was a marked increase in support from NGO/UN (24%) from 8% from the previous year. Meanwhile, support from urban relatives decreased from 34% in 2019 to 16% in 2020.
The proportion of households which received support nationally increased to 78% from 69% recorded in 2019.

The highest increase was recorded in Masvingo from 68% to 86%.
Forms of Support

• Food was the main form of support received by households from UN/NGOs (65%), from Government (48%) and from Churches (42%).
• Government provided crop inputs to most of the households (48%).
• Government is commended for its continued approach in balancing food aid with early recovery support. The crop inputs for which Government is the main source offer opportunities for households to recover from the vagaries of the previous drought.
### Districts with Cereal Response Gap

*Quarterly*

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NB: Total GAP  65 729MT Cereal ESTIMATED AT US$25 634 261 for the projected 5.5million rural people
## Districts with No Cereal Response Gap

<table>
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<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Total District Population</th>
<th>Food Insecure Population</th>
<th>Projected Food Insecure Populations (%)</th>
<th>Government and Partner Support Coverage of Total Population (%)</th>
<th>District</th>
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<th>Projected Food Insecure Populations (%)</th>
<th>Government and Partner Support Coverage of Total Population (%)</th>
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25
EARLY WARNING DATA

Agricultural Season Performance and Crop Production

To assess the performance of the 2019/20 agricultural season at the time of the assessment
2019/20 Rainfall Season
Cumulative Rainfall as of 14 February 2020

Climatologically, rainfall amount increases from south to north and from west to east. *Source: MSD*

- Most of the rainfall was received between mid-January and mid-February 2020 (poor spatial distribution).
- Accumulated rainfall as of 14 February 2020 was high in the eastern highlands (800 mm) and some areas around Lake Kariba with 600 mm.
- The bulk of the country received at most 400 mm.

*Source: MSD*
Longest Dry Spells

- Longest dry spells (40-50 days) were experienced in Masvingo, Mwenezi, Buhera, Rusape, Mutoko, Nyanga, Makonde, Bulilima, Bubi, Beitbridge and parts of Tsholotsho and some pockets along the main watershed and the extreme northern parts of the country. Dry spells were relatively short (6-10 days) in the northwest of the country.

*Definition: Dry day is a day that receives less than 0.85 mm*
Spatial and Temporal Distribution of Rainfall

- Spatial and temporal distribution of the rainfall ranged from poor to very poor across the whole country.
- This relates to the accumulated rainfall (spatial) and longest dry spell (temporal) maps.
Area Planted, Crop Stage and Crop Condition
Nationally, the area planted to maize was less than last year at the time of the assessment.

For small grains, some districts in Midlands, Mashonaland West, East and Central had more planted area than same time last year.

Increase in area planted to small grains could be attributed to the various Government and partners’ support on small grains production.
Nationally, area planted to tobacco was less than last year at the time of the assessment.

Area planted under cotton in Sanyati, Makonde, Hurungwe, Guruve, Shamva, UMP, Mudzi, Nyanga and Buhera was more than same time last year.
During the time of the assessment, maize and small grains crop condition was generally fair.

Wilting conditions were experienced in parts of Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South, parts of Masvingo and Midlands.

Write off conditions were mainly experienced in parts of Matobo, Mangwe and Makonde, Chimanimani, Nyanga districts for both maize and small grains.
Water Situation
Main Drinking Water Services

- Manicaland (68%) had the highest proportion of households using basic water sources.
- Matabeleland South (17%) had the highest proportion of households using surface sources.
• Access to improved drinking water has slightly improved from being constant over the past two years 2018 (72%) , 2019 (72%) to 80% in 2020.
• Matabeleland North (87%) had the highest proportion of households accessing improved water sources.
• The positive improvements could be attributed to a number of Government-led initiatives such as the DDF water drilling programme and Development Partners’ WASH projects.
Access to Improved Water Sources by District

- Generally, the majority of wards in the country (about 80%) access improved water.
- Gwanda (43%) Chiredzi (46%) and Gokwe North (48%) had the least proportion of households accessing water from improved sources.
- Mwenezi (100%) had all the households accessing water from improved water sources.
According to the Sphere Standards, the maximum distance that any household should travel to their main water point is 500m.

At least 53% of households travelled less than 500m to their main water source, with 17% travelling more than 1 km.

Matabeleland South (29%) had the greatest proportion of households travelling more than one kilometre to their main water source.
National Dam Levels

• The national storage levels are responding positively to the inflows from the rainfall activity experienced between mid-January and mid-February.

• Further improvement in dam levels is anticipated as the inflow continues to trickle into the reservoirs. (ZINWA, February 2020)
## Dam Levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Dam</th>
<th>Full Supply Capacity (millions of cubic metres)</th>
<th>% Full as at 18/02/2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kariba</td>
<td>64800</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tugwi Mukosi</td>
<td>1802.6</td>
<td>42.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutirikwi</td>
<td>1378.08</td>
<td>40.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manyame</td>
<td>480.23</td>
<td>75.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osborne</td>
<td>401.64</td>
<td>50.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mazvikadei</td>
<td>343.815</td>
<td>77.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manyuchi</td>
<td>309.06</td>
<td>57.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manjirenji</td>
<td>274.17</td>
<td>71.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebakwe</td>
<td>265.733</td>
<td>43.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chivero</td>
<td>247.18</td>
<td>58.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insiza</td>
<td>7.81</td>
<td>37.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhove</td>
<td>130.46</td>
<td>81.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siya</td>
<td>105.45</td>
<td>68.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inyankuni</td>
<td>74.52</td>
<td>49.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mtshabezi</td>
<td>51.99</td>
<td>57.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Ncema</td>
<td>43.57</td>
<td>20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mzingwane</td>
<td>42.17</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harava</td>
<td>9.02</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mazowe</td>
<td>39.35</td>
<td>39.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bubi-Lupane</td>
<td>39.09</td>
<td>35.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silalabuhwa</td>
<td>23.22</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Ncema</td>
<td>14.87</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seke</td>
<td>3.38</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Major dams levels are still very low with Kariba at 10% capacity. Silalabuhwa and Zhove are at 100% and 81% respectively.
Availability of Water for Agriculture and Livestock

Water for Agricultural Use

- A minor proportion of wards across the country reported that water was available for agricultural use, while most wards had inadequate access to water for agriculture.

Water for Livestock

- Water for livestock was readily available in only a few wards, with the majority of rural wards reporting that water for livestock was largely inadequate.
Livestock
• Generally the condition of livestock ranged from fair to poor in most districts and was good in the some parts of the Mashonaland provinces.

• Chipinge, Mberengwa, Matobo, parts of Tsholotsho, Mbire and Binga reported very poor livestock condition.
Grazing Availability

- Grazing was adequate in most of the northern districts and was reported to be inadequate to critically inadequate in the southern districts of the country.

- Midlands, Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South and Masvingo had most districts which had inadequate to critically inadequate grazing.
# Poverty Deaths by Province

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Poverty Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matabeleland South</td>
<td>16 863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matabeleland North</td>
<td>6 420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masvingo</td>
<td>17 518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midlands</td>
<td>6 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mashonaland West</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cumulative Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>47 648</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: 2019 annual report: Veterinary Services*

- During the 2019/2020 season, cattle deaths due to hunger and/or water shortages were reported.
- Masvingo (17 518) and Matabeleland South (16 863) reported the highest number of poverty deaths.
Cattle Poverty Deaths by District

- No poverty deaths were reported in most of the northern districts.
- Mwenezi (7,170) and Chiredzi (8,005) reported the highest poverty deaths, followed by Beitbridge (4,413).

Source: Livestock Situation Updates, Livestock Production
Districts Affected by Anthrax

- Cases of anthrax outbreaks were reported in 6 provinces in 2019 compared to three provinces in 2018.
- A total of twenty outbreaks were reported in 2019 compared to nine outbreaks in 2018.
- The cases were in cattle and pigs.
- A total of 231 human cases were reported in 2019.
- Foot and Mouth Disease was reported in 4 Provinces, Mashonaland Central, Midlands, Masvingo and Matabeleland South, a decrease from the 8 provinces reported the previous year.

Source: 2019 annual report: Veterinary Services
• The recommended dipping frequency in summer is weekly. However, only 10% of households nationally managed to dip their cattle at the recommended frequency (more than 3 times) during the month of January.

• About 36% of the households did not dip their cattle in January 2020.
Districts Affected by Theileriosis (January Disease)

- Cases of January disease were concentrated in Mashonaland East province.
- In Mashonaland Central, January disease was reported in parts of Mt Darwin, Shamva, and Mazowe.
- Mashonaland West reported January disease cases in Zvimba, Chegutu and Mhondoro Ngezi.
Sources of Acaricides

- Government is commended for the provision of acaricides (70%). However, there is need to improve on the consistency of the supply of dipping chemicals.
Food and Livestock Markets
Most districts in Matabelaland South, North and Masvingo provinces report unavailability of maize grain. Maize meal was more readily available across the country.
Maize Grain Prices

- Prices were highest in Chipinge and Makoni at more than 12ZWL per kg at the time of the survey.
- Least maize grain prices were recorded in Muzarabani, Guruve, Zvimba and Lupane ranging between 5ZWL to 7 ZWL.
Maize Meal Prices

• Maize meal prices were high in Gwanda, Matobo, Nkayi, Bikita, Goromonzi, Shamva, Chikomba and Goromonzi.
Cattle Prices

- Cattle prices were highest in Midlands as well as parts of Masvingo Provinces (Mwenezi and Bikita) and Matabeleland South.
- The lowest prices were reported in Bubi, Tsholotsho and Mbire districts.
Goat Prices

- Goats cost the highest in Midlands and parts of Mashonaland East whilst lowest prices were found in Kariba, Lupane, Bikita and Gutu among others.
Households in Mashonaland Central reported the highest average maize stocks of 57 kgs as at 31 January 2020 whilst Matabeleland south reported the least with 11kgs during the same time.
Casual Labour and Livelihood Coping Strategies
Shocks and Hazards
According to situation reports from provinces, episodes of heavy rains associated with strong winds and floods damaging household property, granaries, crops and infrastructure were reported countrywide. The worst affected districts being Binga, Gokwe North, Chiredzi, Chegutu, Mondoro-Ngezi, Bubi, Muzarabani, Mbire, Mt Darwin and Matobo.

Nationally the highest proportion of households reported sharp increases in cereal prices (68.3%) followed by cash shortages (15.2%).
The most common and available casual labor opportunities in rural wards were weeding (78%), other on-farm labor (58%), gathering firewood (56%), building (56%) and ploughing (42%).
Livelihood Coping Strategies

- Livelihood coping strategies are categorised as follows:
- Stress, Crisis and Emergency according to WFP technical guidance notes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Coping Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stress</td>
<td>- Borrowing money, spending saving, selling assets and selling more livestock than usual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Crisis   | - Selling productive asset  
          | - Withdrawing children from school  
          | - Reducing non food expenditure |
| Emergency| - Selling of land  
          | - Begging of food  
          | - Selling the last breeding stock to buy food |
Livelihood Coping Strategies

- Matabeleland South had the highest proportion of households adopting emergency livelihood coping strategies (21%) followed by Mashonaland West province (18%).
- Masvingo Province had the highest proportion of households adopting crisis coping strategies.
- The majority of households reported not adopting stress, crisis and emergency coping strategies as it was not necessary. This can be attributed to the ongoing Government and partner social protection programmes.
Livelihoods Coping Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Likelihoods coping strategy options</th>
<th>Responses (%)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It wasn't necessary</td>
<td>No, I don't have assets</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Already sold those assets/livestock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sold household assets/goods (refrigerator, radio, furniture, television, etc.)</td>
<td>50.2</td>
<td>39.7</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced non-food expenses on health (including drugs) and education</td>
<td>63.7</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sold productive assets or means of transport (sewing machines, wheel barrow, bicycle, car, etc.)</td>
<td>50.2</td>
<td>45.2</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household spend savings on food</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td>50.2</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household borrowed money from a formal lender/bank</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>55.7</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household sold house or land to buy food</td>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household withdrew children from school because of hunger or to help work for food</td>
<td>78.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household sell last female breeding livestock</td>
<td>58.5</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household sell more animals (non-productive) than usual to buy food</td>
<td>55.8</td>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household beg to get food</td>
<td>78.0</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The majority of households reported not adopting the livelihoods coping strategies because it was not necessary to do so by the time of the assessment, followed by those that cited not having assets to do so.
Income Sources
• Nationally, 34.9% of households reported that their most important source of income was casual labour.

• The proportion of households that reported remittances within and outside the country was 8.1% and 5.3%, respectively. This shows that social capital continues to be an important resilience strategy for households.
There was an increase in the proportion of households that rely on casual labour as their main source of income from 29.9% in 2019 to 34.9% in 2020.

However, there was a notable decline in the proportion of households that rely on formal salary/wages (4.9%), food crop production/sales (7.8%) and cash crop production/sales (3.3%) compared to the same time last year.
Nationally, the food poverty line continues to increase over time and by December 2019 was at $ZWL 1887. However, the average household income was $ZWL 581 at the time of the survey with Matabeleland South having the highest at $ZWL 712.

This is evidence that households’ ability to purchase food continues to deteriorate.
Health and Nutrition
# The Food Consumption Score

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Consumption Score Groups</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POOR</td>
<td>0-21</td>
<td>An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 5-6 days, sugar 3-4 days, oil/fat 1 day a week, while animal proteins are totally absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BORDERLINE</td>
<td>21.5-35</td>
<td>An expected consumption of staple 7 days, vegetables 6-7 days, sugar 3-4 days, oil/fat 3 days, meat/fish/egg/pulses 1-2 days a week, while dairy products are totally absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCEPTABLE</td>
<td>&gt;35</td>
<td>As defined for the borderline group with more number of days a week eating meat, fish, egg, oil, and complemented by other foods such as pulses, fruits, milk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Thirty one percent of the households were consuming poor diets and the province with the highest proportion was Matabeleland North (53%).
• The majority of households had low HDDS whilst those with adequate HDDS were 2%.

• Matabeleland North (88%), Matabeleland South (83 %), were the provinces with the highest proportion of households with a low HDDS.
The Household Hunger Score (HHS) is a household food deprivation scale which focuses on the food quantity dimension of food access.

There was little to no hunger for 74% of the households whilst 26% faced moderate to severe hunger.

This proportion of households with little to no hunger (74%) triangulates well with the section on social protection. This could be attributed to the better response.
## Child Nutrition Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Indicator Definition</th>
<th>National Prevalence (%)</th>
<th>Prevalence cut-off values for public health significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Stunting**                     | Height/Length for age <−2 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median (WHO, 2006)    | 29.4                    | <2.5%: Very Low  
2.5−<10%: Low  
10−20%: Medium  
20−30%: High  
≥30%: Very High (DeOnis et al., 2019) |                          |
| **Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)** | Weight for height <-2SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median and/oedema (WHO, 2006) | 3.7                     | <5% Acceptable  
5−9.9%: Poor  
10−14.9%: Serious  
>15%: Critical (WHO, 2000) |                          |
| **Severe acute malnutrition (SAM)** | Weight for height <−3 SD of the WHO Child Growth Standards median (WHO, 2006)          | 1.4                     | 0% = acceptable  
>0%: Unacceptable |                          |
Child Nutrition Status

- The national stunting prevalence was reported to be 29.4% among children 6-59 months.
- The GAM rate was 3.7% and below the WHO threshold for emergency.
- Children identified as underweight was 9.45 and comparable with other assessments.
Nutrition Status by Sex of Child

- Stunting remains high (29.4%) and the leading form of malnutrition for the under fives. Boys (34.5%) were more stunted than girls (24.3%).
• Manicaland (41.6%) and Matabeleland North (35.4%) had stunting prevalence above the national prevalence.
Prevalence rate of Global Acute Malnutrition by Province

- The national GAM prevalence is 3.7% with Matabeleland North (5.7%) and Mashonaland Central (5.3%) recording the highest.
The national prevalence of underweight is 9%
Health and Nutrition Definitions

• **ART Defaulter**: HIV positive client who has not had a contact with a health facility for at least a month from the expected date of contact

• **Pellagra**: Disease caused by low level of niacin (vitamin B3), its marked by dementia, diarrhoea and dermatitis (3 Ds)
Proportion of Households With Member on HIV Treatment/Diagnosed as HIV Positive

- An average of 17% of the households had at least a member on HIV treatment or who had been diagnosed as HIV positive.
- The highest proportion was recorded in Matabeleland South (27%) and the least in Mashonaland central (12%).
Mashonaland West recorded the highest proportion of households with clients who missed their doses from the household with HIV positive members.
• The major reasons cited for missing doses were no stocks at health facility (34%) and lack of transport money to go and collect medication (21%).
The ART and TB drug stock outs are most prominent in Mashonaland West and Midlands province.
Distance to the Nearest Health Facility

- On average 40% of households with an HIV positive member are within the less than 5km radius of health centres.
- Matabeleland North (28%), followed by Matabeleland South (30%) had the least proportion of households with less than 5km to the nearest health facility.
Nationally, the proportion of districts that reported higher cases of pellagra was 43.6%.

Matabeleland North (66.7%), Mashonaland West (57.1%), Matabeleland South (53.3%) and Midlands (52.9%) had the highest proportion of districts that reported higher cases of pellagra in the fourth quarter of 2019.
Health and Nutrition

- **Diarrhea**: is the passage of three or more loose or watery stools per day.

- **Fever**: body temperature above the normal of 37 degrees Celsius.

- Childhood illness has an impact on dietary intake, nutrient utilisation among children, hence detrimental to acute under nutrition.

- Prevalence of child illness was assessed as presence of illness during the two weeks preceding the survey.
Childhood Illnesses (Diarrhoea, Cough, Fever)

- Cough (36%) had the highest prevalence nationally followed by fever with 31%,
- Mashonaland West recorded the highest on all the conditions.
Conclusions and Recommendations
Conclusions and Recommendations

• The rainfall season started in the 3rd dekad of November 2019 in the western and eastern parts of the country. The rest of the country had start of season in the 3rd dekad of December and later. It was characterised by both poor spatial and temporal distribution. The Rainfall season outcome did not perform as per forecast. It is therefore recommended that communities should take advantage of the ongoing downpours for water harvesting.

• The performance of the rainfall season at the onset calls for Government and development partners to develop and rehabilitate irrigation infrastructures.

• Nationally, the area put under maize was less than same time last year. This calls for initiatives and appropriate infrastructure for the promotion of production of the cereal crops.

• For small grains some districts in Midlands, Mashonaland West, East and Central had more planted area than same time last year. Increase in area planted to small grains could be attributed to the various Government and partners’ support on small grains production.

• The crop condition for maize and small grains was generally fair. Wilting conditions were experienced in parts of Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South, parts of Masvingo and Midlands. Write off conditions were mainly experienced in parts of Matobo, Mangwe and Makonde, Chimanimani, Nyanga districts for both maize and small grains.
Conclusions and Recommendations

• Only 59% of the rural population has access to basic drinking water services which is significantly below the SDG target of universal access. There is need to shift from primarily relying on unimproved drinking water sources to improved communal water points and improved piped water into households using the cheapest possible means.

• Some households continue to access water for domestic use from distant sources. At least 17% of the households travelled more 1km to the nearest water source. In that regard, continued investment is required for the provision of clean, safe water within the recommended distances.

• While in the majority of the wards water was inadequate for both agricultural use and for livestock, there is need to improve water sources for animals across the country. This includes harnessing of rainwater for later use and drilling of additional boreholes as well as fitting water troughs at boreholes. Dam construction and rehabilitation for irrigation development is needed to improve productivity within the country to complement rain fed agricultural activities.

• The reduction in the proportion of households with cattle is partly attributed to high livestock deaths due to preventable causes and diseases. The ministry responsible for livestock should ensure availability of affordable veterinary drugs, medicines and chemicals at community level.

• The trend showed that livestock in natural regions IV and V were the most affected by poverty deaths. Livestock Intervention programs from Government and partners to include mitigation strategies that build resilience within the livestock farming households in the low lying parts of the country.
Conclusions and Recommendations

• Appropriate cereal seeds, small grains seed, legume seeds and agriculture chemicals were reported to be unavailable on the market in most parts of the country.

• Maize grain prices were highest in Chipinge and Makoni at more than 12ZWL per kg at the time of the survey. Least maize grain prices were recorded in Mbire, Muzarabani, Guruve Zvimba and Lupine ranging between 5ZWL to 7 ZWL.

• Casual labour has consistently been the main source of income for rural households despite the fact that it is vulnerable to climate change and variability. There is need to develop strategies that promote income diversification for rural households such as vocational training for skills training.

• There is need for the Government to direct efforts towards formation of ISALs as strategies to improve the level of household income.

• It is recommended that the Government develops strategies that promote farming as a business including improving functionality of irrigation schemes and promotion of rearing of large and small livestock

• The Food Poverty Datum Line has continued to increase over time and remains higher than the average income. There is need for the Government to strategize on how to make food more affordable to the general rural population.
Conclusions and Recommendations

• The high proportion of households consuming poor diets (31%), as well as the borderline category (38%) is an indication of poor quality diet nationally. It is recommended that the Government and its partners consider a well-balanced food basket as a standard for its food assistance programs.

• At least 5% of households with members on HIV/AIDS medication reported that the members missed their dose. The main reason for missing HIV/AIDS medication was medicine stock outs (34%). It is recommended that the ministry responsible for health and closely monitors ARV medicines in health to prevent stock outs.

• The other major reason cited was lack of transport money to access the health facilities (21%). It is recommended to improve accessibility to health facilities (Mobile clinics, outreach points, satellite clinics).

• It is also recommended that Government and its partners invest in strengthening the use of community ART groups to collect medicines so as to facilitate smooth collection of ART drugs.

• The current prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) (3.7%) is within the acceptable WHO cut off values for public health action. However some provinces had prevalence above national average (Matabeleland North 5.7%, Mashonaland Central 5.3% and Matabeleland South 4.3%). The Government of Zimbabwe needs to scale up interventions that reduce and maintain GAM rates below global thresholds.

• The national prevalence of stunting (29.4%) remains above the acceptable global thresholds of 20%. However there are two provinces Manicaland (41.6%) and Matabeleland North (35.4%) with prevalence above the national average. There is need for a Government led multi-sectoral approach to scale up stunting reduction programmes.
Conclusions and Recommendations

• The proportion of households which received support nationally increased from 69% in 2019 to 78%. There was also a notable increase in support from NGO/UN from 8% to 24%.

• There is need to increase resilience building programmes in order to reduce community dependency on support from Government and development partners.

• All provinces are receiving some of support from both Government and NGO/UN agencies. However, there is need to further interrogate and harmonize the beneficiary databases to mitigate issues of double-dipping.

• At least 28 out of the 60 rural districts in the country have a cereal response gap. There is need to facilitate the implementation of a robust food and nutrition response to ensure that districts with a cereal response gap are cushioned.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Surname</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charity</td>
<td>Baloyi</td>
<td>Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miriam</td>
<td>Banda</td>
<td>Food and Nutrition Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lameck</td>
<td>Betera</td>
<td>Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lloyd</td>
<td>Chaisingwa</td>
<td>Food and Nutrition Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kudakwashe Godfrey</td>
<td>Chakabva</td>
<td>Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter</td>
<td>Chigumbu</td>
<td>Ministry of Health and Child Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shamiso</td>
<td>Chikobvu</td>
<td>Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, and Rural Resettlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rumbidzai</td>
<td>Chirozva</td>
<td>Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinikiwe Jocelyn</td>
<td>Chishakwe</td>
<td>Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare</td>
</tr>
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<td>Paidamoyo Pauline</td>
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# Report Writing Team

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