Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Zimbabwe

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 4

Results and recommendations
August 2022

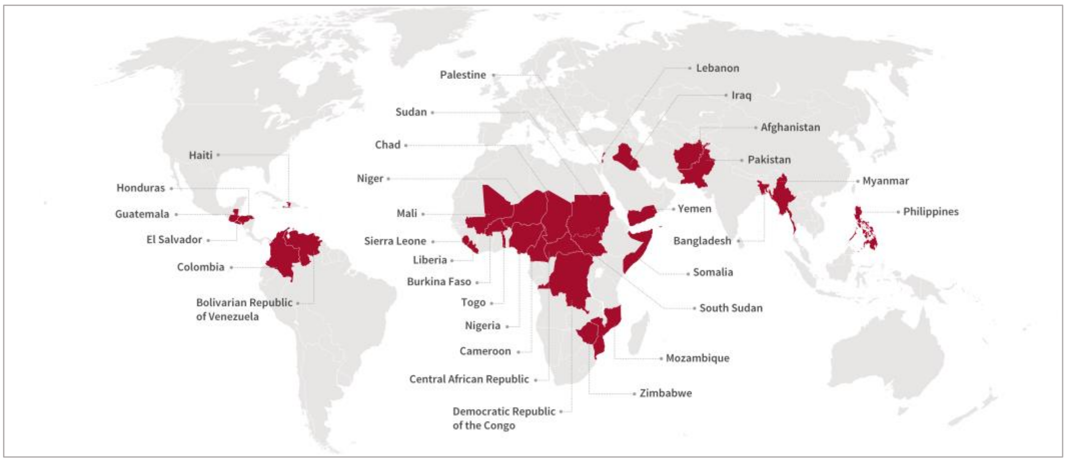
Data collection 29 March to 11 May 2022

Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) launched a household survey in Zimbabwe through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System to monitor agricultural livelihoods and food security. This fourth-round survey utilized stratified sampling and random digital dialing (RDD) techniques reaching 1 988 households. Eight out of the ten provinces in Zimbabwe were surveyed: Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Masvingo, Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South and Midlands. The survey was representative at the Admin 1 level and targeted 180 agricultural households per province and 295 non-agricultural households per province.

The survey was conducted from 29 March 2022 to 11 May 2022 through computer-assisted telephone interviews (CATI). Of the surveyed households, 63 percent were involved in both livestock and crop production, 24 percent were involved in crop production, 9 percent were involved in livestock production and 4 percent were involved in none of the above. Data were weighted at the analytical stage for total population, crop and livestock producer quotas and wealth indicators (toilet facilities as a proxy). The previous third-round survey was conducted from 26 August to 6 October 2021 and is drawn from to make comparisons throughout this brief.

Figure 1. Countries with established DIEM-Monitoring Systems



Source of data: FAO. 2022. *DIEM-Monitoring.* Rome. Cited 6 April 2022. https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org
Source of map: United Nations. 2020. *Map of the World.* Cited 6 April 2022. un.org/geospatial/content/map-world

Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

About DIEM-Monitoring

FAO established the DIEM-Monitoring System to collect, analyse and disseminate data on shocks and livelihoods in countries prone to multiple shocks. DIEM-Monitoring aims to inform decision making by providing regularly updated information on how different shocks are affecting the livelihoods and food security of agricultural populations.

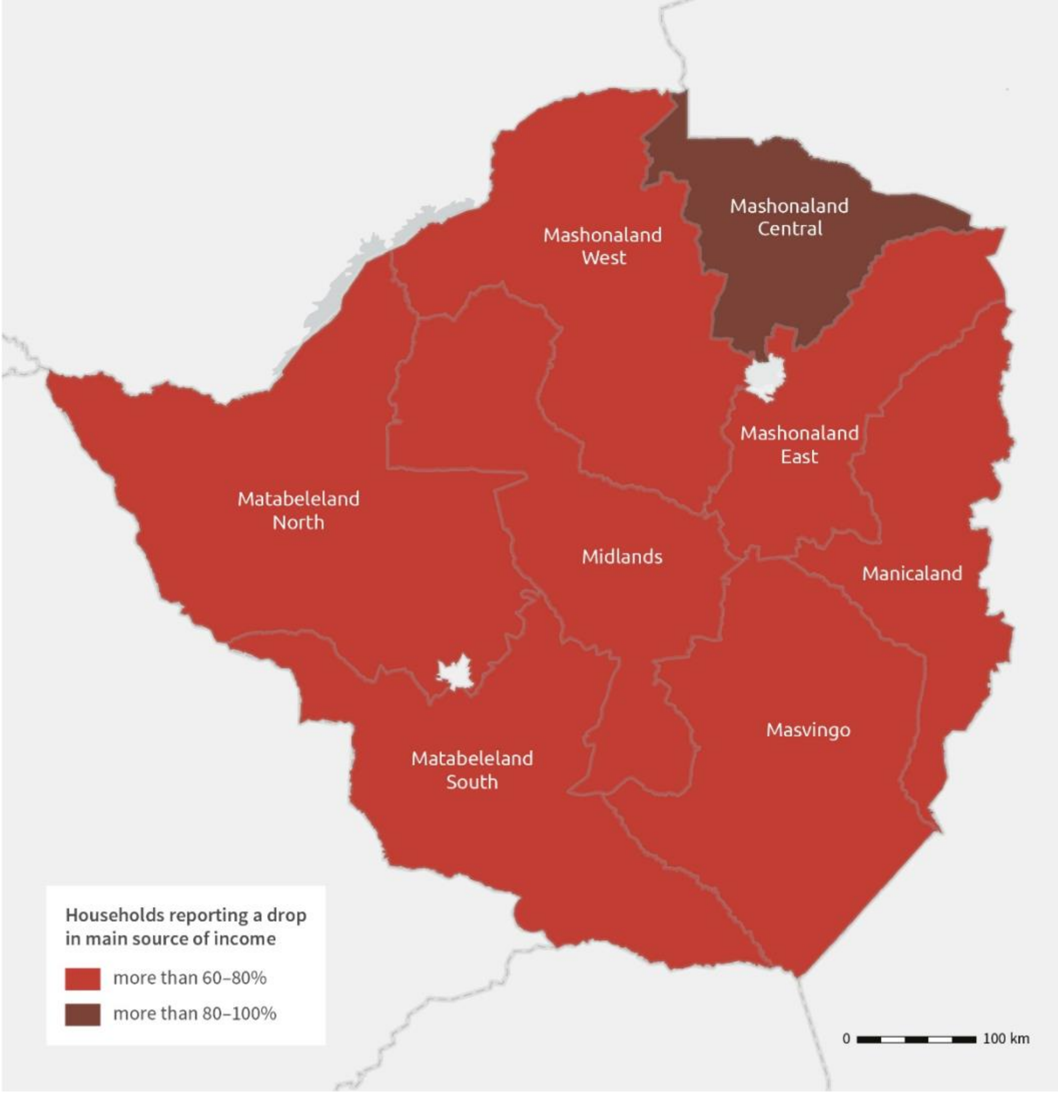
At the core of the DIEM-Monitoring System are country-level dashboards. Readers are encouraged to explore these dashboards to gain more insight into the context of Zimbabwe and other countries.

> Learn more at https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring

Income and shocks

The main income sources reported for the three months preceding the survey were daily wage on farms and other casual employment in the agricultural sector (14 percent), production and sale of cash crops (13 percent), and production and sale of staple crops (11 percent). Most (81 percent) of the households had no second source of income (up from 60 percent in the last round). About 73 percent reported a decrease in main household income in the three months preceding the survey compared to the same period in a typical year (Figure 2).

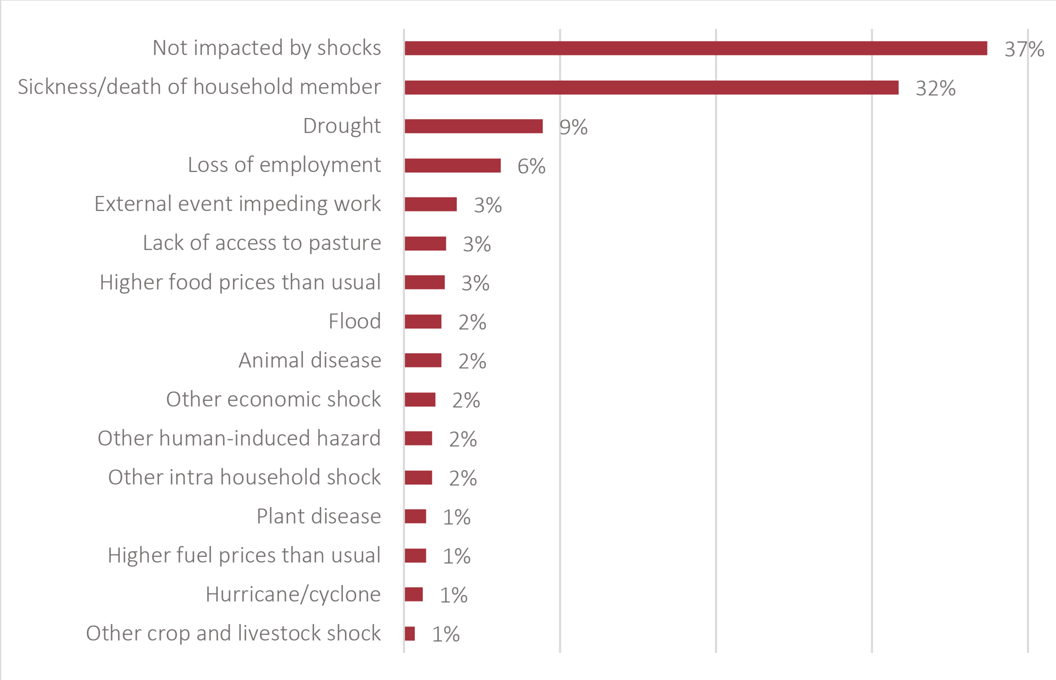
Figure 2. Drop in income during the three months preceding the survey (percentage of households)



Source of map: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS. 2018. *Map of Zimbabwe*. Cited 14 August 2022. https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/explore
Source of data: FAO. 2022. Zimbabwe: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (March–May 2022). Rome. Cited 14 August 2022. https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org

While 37 percent of households reported no shock in the last three months (down from 41 percent), about 32 percent reported sickness, accident or death of a household member as the main shock experienced (up from 30 percent), followed by drought or heat stress (9 percent), and lost employment or working opportunities (6 percent down from 19 percent) (Figure 3). Seventy-nine percent of households reported shocks related to the COVID-19 pandemic compared to 80 percent in the previous round.

Figure 3. Main shocks reported (percentage of households)

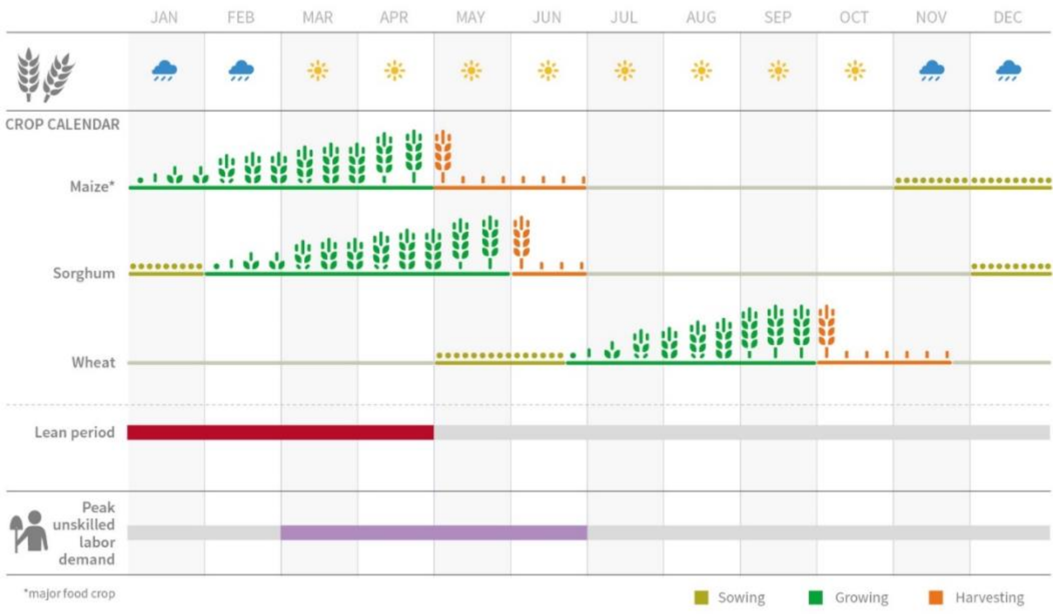


Source of data: FAO. 2022. Zimbabwe: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (March–May 2022). Rome. Cited 14 August 2022. https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org

Crops

The main crops produced were maize (79 percent of households), sorghum (6 percent) and groundnuts (4 percent). About 94 percent of crop production was rainfed. The majority (63 percent) cultivated between 1 ha and 5 ha. The majority of farmers (47 percent up from 42 percent in the last round) planted slightly less area than a typical year, while 24 percent (down from 26 percent) planted the same area and 21 percent (down from 25 percent) planted slightly more. More households (63 percent up from 45 percent) were anticipating slightly less harvest than a typical year, while 27 percent (up from 11 percent) were expecting 50 percent less than a typical year, 3 percent (down from 7 percent) were expecting the same and 7 percent (down from 31 percent) expected slightly more.

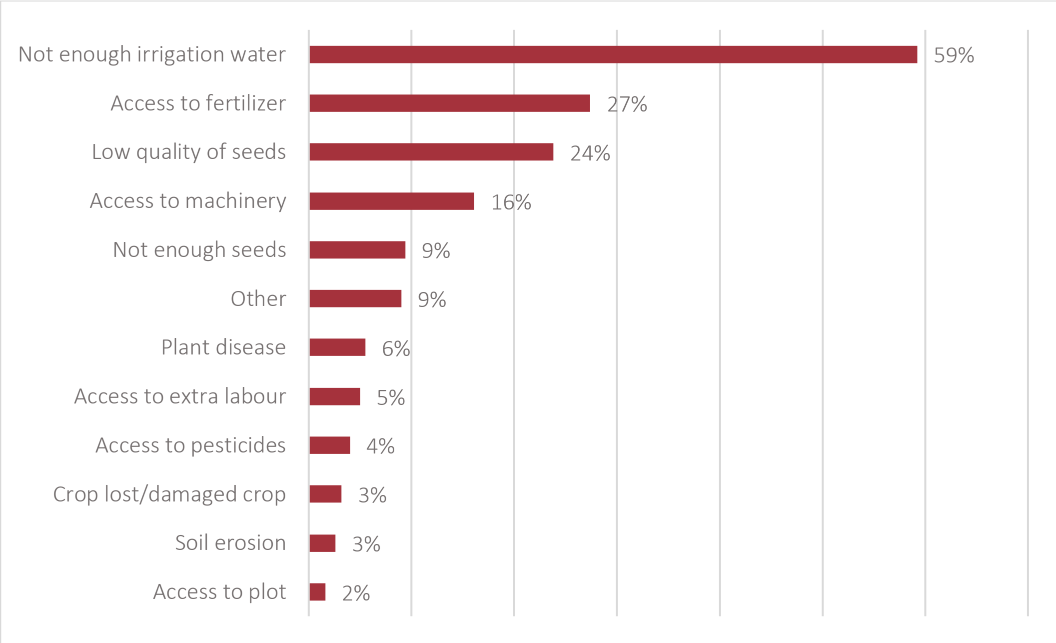
Figure 4. Crop calendar



Source of data: FAO. 2022. GIEWS – Global Information and Early Warning System: Country briefs – Zimbabwe. In: ***Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*** [online]. Rome. [Cited 25 January 2022]. www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?lang=en&code=ZWE

About 87 percent (up from 80 percent) faced difficulties in crop production (Figure 5). Fifty-nine percent of respondent producers reported not enough irrigation or rainwater. About 37 percent of households (down from 58 percent) reported difficulties selling their produce. The major difficulties faced when selling crops were related to low selling prices (46 percent of producers).

Figure 5. Difficulties faced in crop production

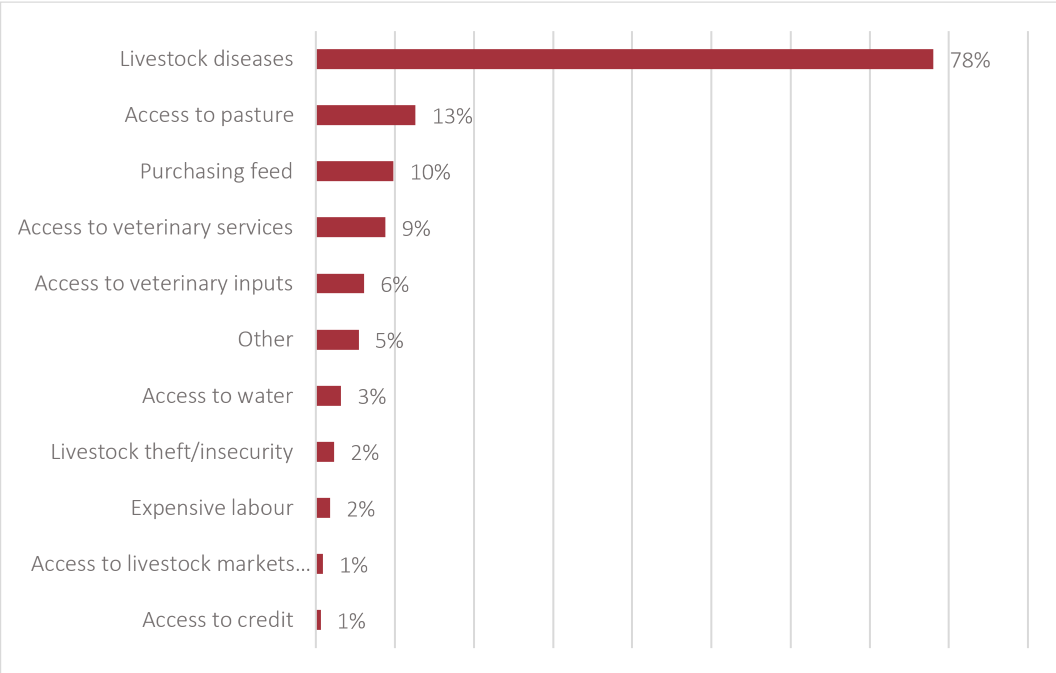


Source of data: FAO. 2022. Zimbabwe: DIEM-Monitoring assessment results (March–May 2022). Rome. Cited 14 August 2022.
https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org

Livestock

Livestock producers reported the production of poultry (48 percent of livestock producers), cattle (26 percent) and goats (20 percent). About 64 percent (down from 67 percent in the last round) of producers faced difficulties in the three months preceding the survey (Figure 6). Livestock production was mainly affected by diseases and death (78 percent, up from 70 percent in the last round). About 66 percent of producers reported a decrease in the number of livestock compared to last year, while 22 percent reported an increase. About 59 percent (up from 57 percent in the last round) of producers reported difficulties selling livestock in the past three months (Figure 6). The main sales difficulty encountered by producers was low selling prices, reported by 49 percent of producers. The majority of respondent households contended that livestock prices were slightly less compared to the last three years, while 20 percent said they have remained the same, and 17 percent said they were slightly more. The greatest number of producers reporting a price drop were in Manicaland province and the least in Matabeleland North province.

Figure 6. Difficulties faced in livestock production



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Food security

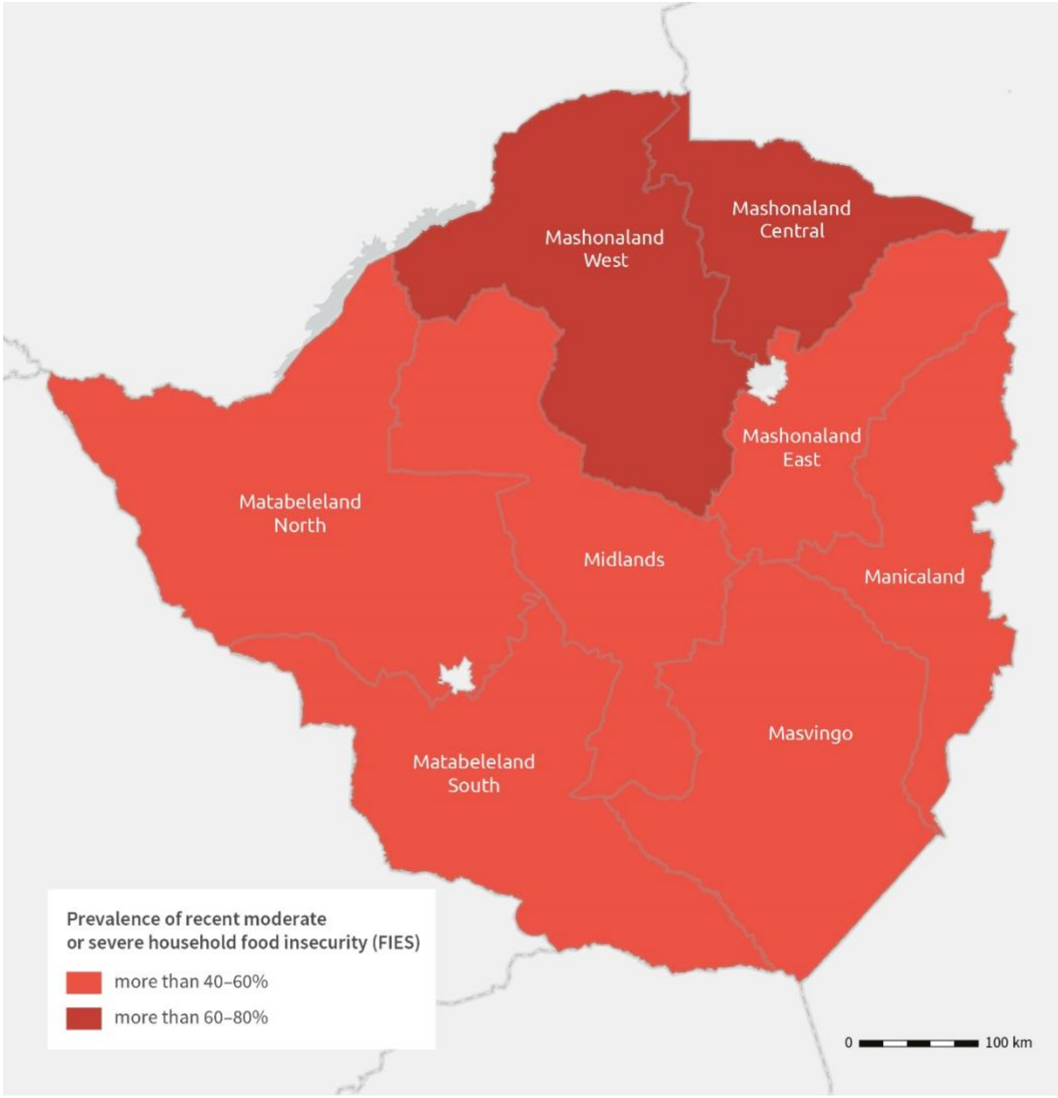
Standard indicators used for the analysis of food security included the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)[1], Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) and the Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) scores. These indicators are used as proxies of food insecurity and household livelihood disruption.

The survey indicated that a number of households were food insecure, but the early harvests sustained many households. About 46 percent (down from 56 percent in the last round) of households ran out of food over the last thirty days. About 22 percent (down from 49 percent) of households reported being hungry and could not eat, and 16 percent could not eat for a whole day (down from 18 percent) in the last thirty days. About 6 percent of households faced severe hunger , while 25 percent faced moderate hunger, 24 percent faced slight hunger and 46 percent faced little to no hunger. The prevalence of severe recent food insecurity (RFI) on the Food Insecurity Experiences Scale (FIES) was 15 percent (down from 26 percent in the last round), while moderate food insecurity was at 55 percent (down from 63 percent in the last round) (Figure 7).

Mashonaland West Province presented the worst food insecurity situation according to the FIES indicator followed by Mashonaland Central. In Mashonaland West, 292 households were surveyed. Of these households, 63 percent experienced moderate or severe RFI in the four weeks preceding the survey. In Mashonaland Central, 248 households were surveyed. Sixty-three percent of the households experienced moderate or severe RFI in the four weeks preceding the survey. The prevalence of RFI at moderate or severe levels was reported based on the thresholds used to define "moderate" and "severe" RFI.

[1] FIES results are subject to change. The country scale will continue to evolve over additional rounds of data collection allowing for more consistent comparability across rounds.

Figure 7. Prevelance of recent moderate or severe household food insecurity (as measured by FIES)



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Needs

A high number of households (96 percent down from 98 percent in the last round) reported the need for assistance in the next three to six months. Midlands and Mashonaland West provinces have the highest proportion of households requiring support with around 89 percent reporting the need for cash or food assistance. The study also found that the majority of households (87 percent down from 89 percent in the last round) had not received any assistance in the last three months.

Recommendations

Short-term recommendations (1–6 months)

- Provide food assistance to vulnerable households during the ongoing season and support to farmers to increase productivity through low-external-input climate-smart and agro-ecological techniques in the coming season. Midlands and Mashonaland West provinces should be prioritized.
- Food security interventions should be prepared for the lean season given the poor harvest expected in the ongoing season. Interventions such as providing emergency food assistance to vulnerable and in-crisis households and promoting off season gardening activities to supplement the failed dryland crop are recommended.
- In light of the poor harvest, most households are likely to exhaust their harvest in a few months. Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop food assistance programmes.

Long-term recommendations (6 months and beyond)

- Create safety nets and social protection for the households affected by COVID-19 and the poor performing season.
- Livestock productivity programmes should focus on good animal husbandry, especially containment of tick-borne diseases (mainly Theileriosis). The livestock market must also be developed.
- Relying on rainfed agriculture is not resilient. Other alternatives, like irrigation, need to be promoted.

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