



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

Zimbabwe

**Sweden's contribution through the
Special Fund for Emergency and
Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) –
Anticipatory Action window**



Safeguarding agricultural livelihoods and improving food security through anticipatory actions

Zimbabwe has been plagued by multiple hazards over the last decade. The country has suffered from a series of climatic shocks including cyclones, droughts, floods and pest infestations coupled with severe economic challenges, which caused significant damage to agricultural livelihoods and impacted food security.

Over the last years, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been working closely with the government and partners to strengthen the capacities for acting ahead of predictable hazards to mitigate their impacts on the most vulnerable, food-insecure people. As part of its country programme, FAO has facilitated the development of Anticipatory Action protocols for drought

and floods. Such protocols provide details on early warning indicators, triggers for Anticipatory Action and standard procedures to assist vulnerable people before these hazards strike.

Regional and national seasonal forecasts predicted above-average rainfall during the 2022/23 rainy season, showing an increased risk of flooding coinciding with the ongoing agricultural season. These forecasts denote the increased probability of Anticipatory Action interventions in the target and at-risk districts of Matobo and Gwanda during the first months of 2023.

Flooding in riverine and lowland areas would have strong impacts on vulnerable small-scale farmers. It can lead to the collapsing of poorly constructed granaries and other storage structures, resulting in a loss of stored food reserves and severe food deficits in the immediate aftermath. Floods can also cause waterlogging,



culminating in the rotting of crops and leaching of nutrients from the soil, and the drowning of livestock. Important assets such as gardens and irrigation schemes can be damaged due to weakening foundations and soil erosion.

Thanks to the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency's (Sida's) contribution to the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) – Anticipatory Action window, FAO is putting in place Anticipatory Action measures to mitigate the potential impact of expected floods on vulnerable households.

If the triggers are hit, the intervention will support 15 000 households in Matobo and Gwanda from January to March 2023 in cooperation with partners and the government. Activities will focus on flood risk awareness and training for civil protection committees and vulnerable households on anticipatory actions that protect crops, livestock and productive assets. They will also focus on providing protection measures such as the establishment and rehabilitation of flood diverging channels.

The project prioritizes female-headed households, households that include orphans and vulnerable children, members that are chronically ill, people living with disabilities and the elderly, internally displaced people, refugees and returnees.

Acting fast through the provision of training and protection measures helps vulnerable farmers face the impact of expected floods, strengthen their resilience and improve their food security.

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