



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Zimbabwe

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Monitoring brief, round 8

Results and recommendations
September 2023

Key highlights

- > The survey was conducted at the beginning of the main crop output marketing season.
- > Household access to income increased. The amount of income, however, decreased in the three months preceding the survey compared to the previous round.
- > Crop production decreased. Forty-six percent of households planted less area than in a typical year while 21 percent reported they planted more. Thirty-three percent reported planting the same area as in a typical year.
- > Harvests were lower than usual with the majority of crop producers reporting they harvested less than in a typical year (67 percent).
- > Livestock production decreased for most livestock types, except goats.
- > The food security situation was slightly better than in the previous round with more people performing better on the household hunger scale (HHS) and household dietary diversity score (HDDS).
- > Ninety-six percent of households reported needing assistance in the three to six months following the survey. This included inputs for crop and vegetable production, livestock feed and cash. However, the percentage of households requesting cash assistance has gradually decreased over the rounds of data collection.

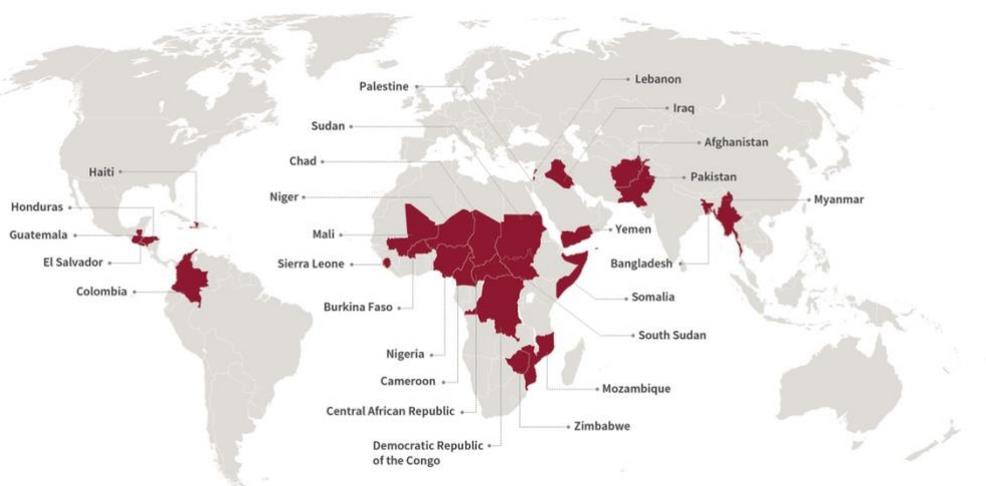
Methodology

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) conducted household surveys in Zimbabwe through the Data in Emergencies Monitoring (DIEM-Monitoring) System to monitor agricultural livelihoods and food security. This eighth-round survey was conducted via computer-assisted telephone interviews between 12 and 30 July 2023, reaching 1 474 respondents. The survey is representative at provincial level.

Eight out of 10 provinces, excluding Harare and Bulawayo metropolitan provinces, were surveyed. A fixed number of 160 agricultural households were targeted at the provincial level and quotas were set on agricultural households following the proportion observed in the population. This resulted in a sample target of 1 280 agricultural households. Variable targets for non-agricultural households were set following the proportion observed in the population, which resulted in a sample target of 161 non-agricultural households. Actual samples for agricultural and non-agricultural households totalled 1 306 and 168, respectively. Samples for crop and livestock producers totalled 1 160 and 831, respectively.

This eighth-round survey followed the seventh-round survey conducted from 3 March to 8 April 2023. The seventh round has been drawn from to make comparisons throughout this brief.

Figure 1. Countries with an established DIEM-Monitoring System



Source of data: FAO. 2023. DIEM-Monitoring. In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 1 July 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/>

Source of map: United Nations. 2023. *Map of the World*. [Cited 3 November 2022]. un.org/geospatial/content/map-world

The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined. The 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.

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.

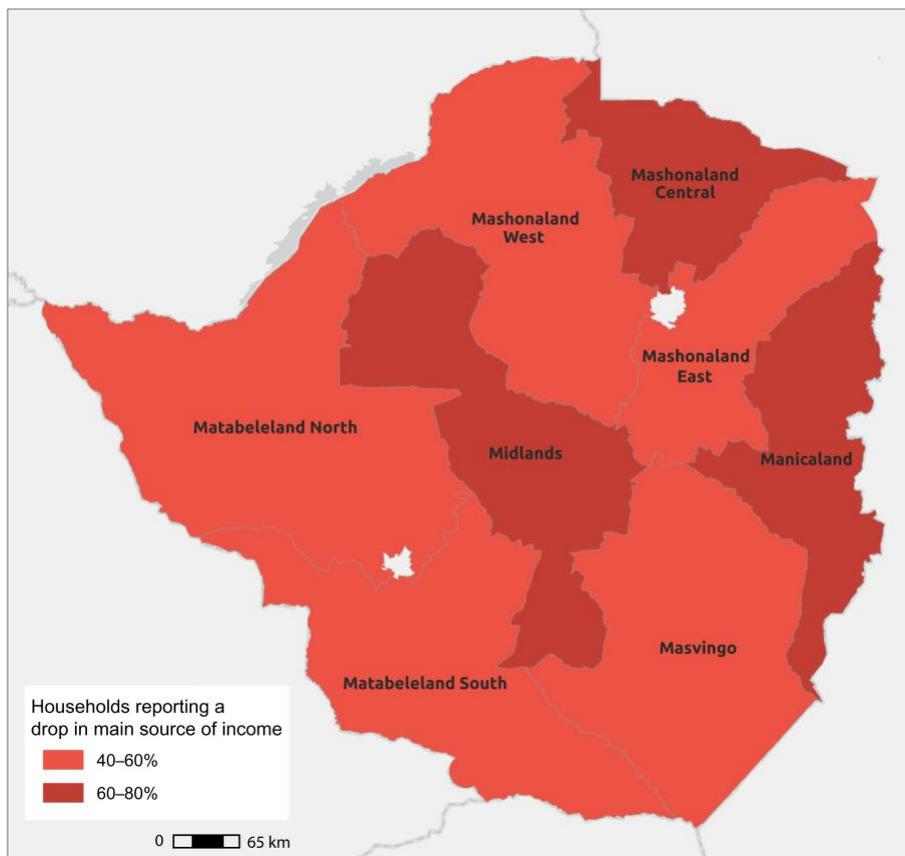
> Learn more at <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org/pages/monitoring>

Income and shocks

Household access to income increased since the previous round. However, the amount of income accrued in the three months preceding the survey decreased compared to the previous round. All households surveyed reported that they had a main source of income. This differs from the previous round in which 5 percent reported they did not. In this eighth-round survey, 57.3 percent reported having no second income source, a figure only slightly higher than in the previous round (57 percent). Sixty-eight percent of surveyed households reported having no third source of income compared to 72 percent in the seventh round.

Fifty-eight percent, up from 49 percent in the seventh round, reported a main income decrease. Forty-eight percent, up from 41 percent, reported a second income decrease and 36 percent, up from 32 percent, reported a third income decrease (Figure 2).

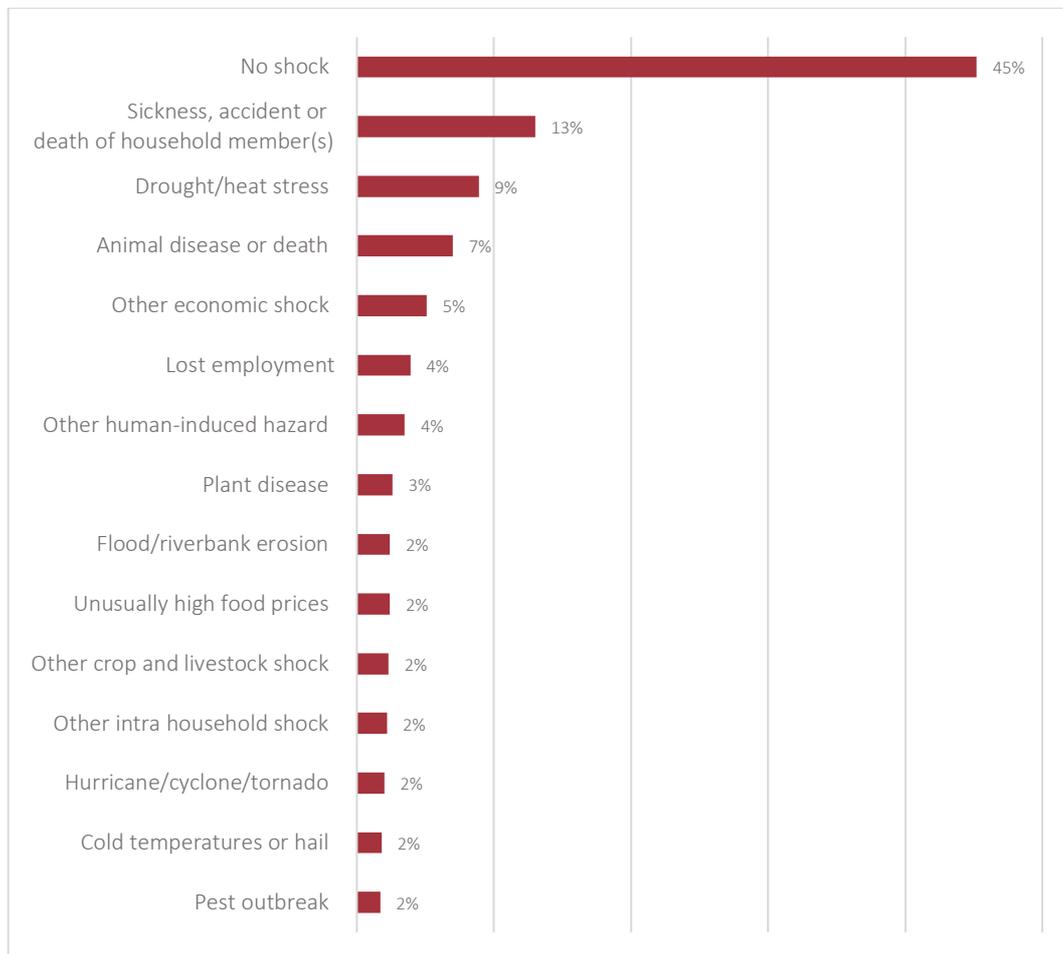
Figure 2. Households reporting a drop in main source of income (by province)



Source: FAO. 2023. Zimbabwe: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (July 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 28 August 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

In this eighth-round survey, many households experienced no shock (45 percent). Some experienced sickness, accident or death of household member(s) (13 percent), drought/heat stress (9 percent), animal diseases (7 percent) and other shocks (Figure 3).

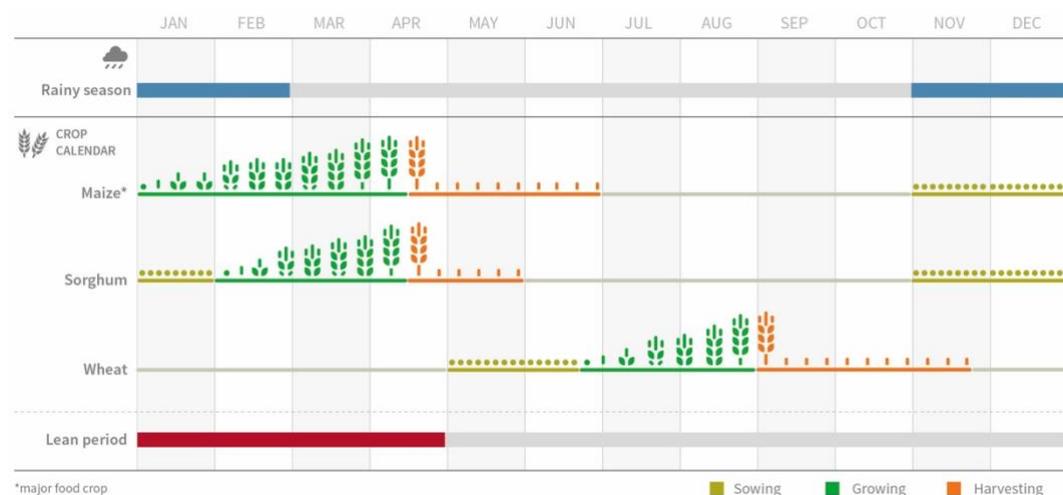
Figure 3. Main shock reported (percentage of households)



Source: FAO. 2023. Zimbabwe: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (July 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 28 August 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Crops

Figure 4. Zimbabwe agricultural calendar

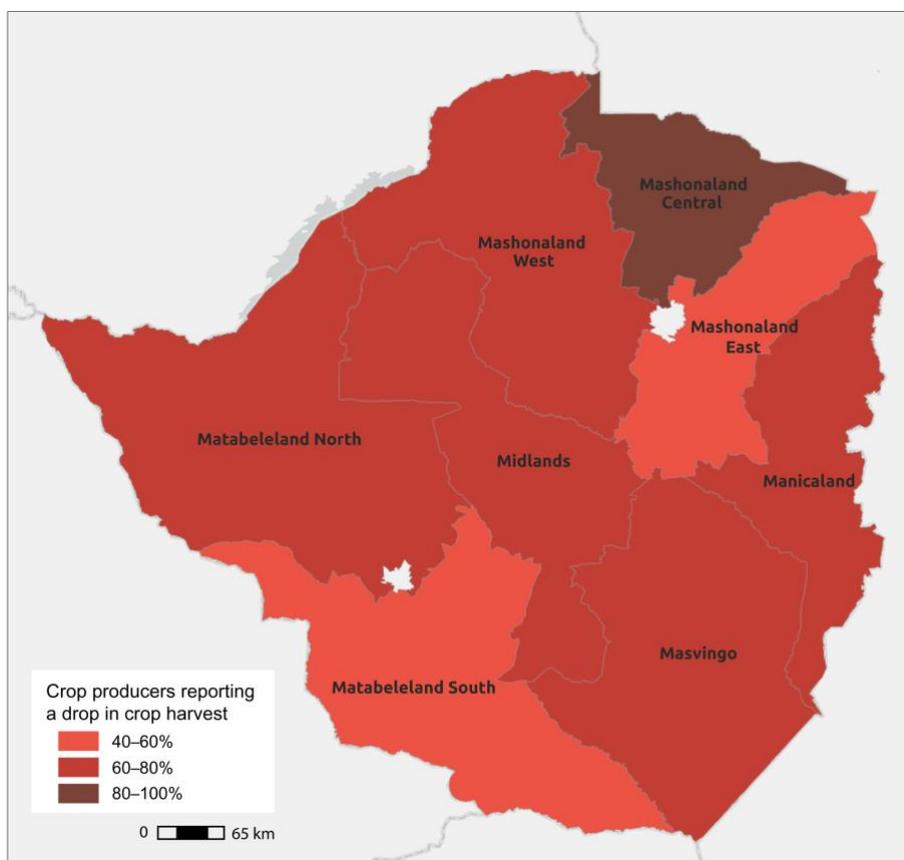


Source: FAO. 2023. GIEWS – Global Information and Early Warning System: Country briefs – Zimbabwe. In: *FAO*. Rome. [Cited 29 May 2023]. [fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?lang=en&code=ZWE](https://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?lang=en&code=ZWE)

The survey was conducted at the beginning of the main crop output marketing season. Most households sold maize (25 percent), followed by non-food cash crops (16 percent), leafy vegetables (13 percent), tomatoes (10 percent), groundnuts (8 percent) and sorghum (4 percent). Twenty-three percent reported selling other crops. Some crop producers planted the same area as in a typical year (33 percent), while 29 percent planted slightly less, 18 percent a lot less, 17 percent slightly more area and 4 percent a lot more.

Some producers harvested a lot less than a normal year (35 percent), 32 percent harvested slightly less, 20 percent slightly more, 8 percent the same as in a normal year and 6 percent a lot more. Overall, 67 percent harvested less than a typical year while 26 percent said they harvested more. In Mashonaland Central province specifically, more than 80 percent of producers reported a drop in harvest (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Crop producers reporting a drop in the area planted (by province)



Source: FAO. 2023. Zimbabwe: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (July 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 28 August 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

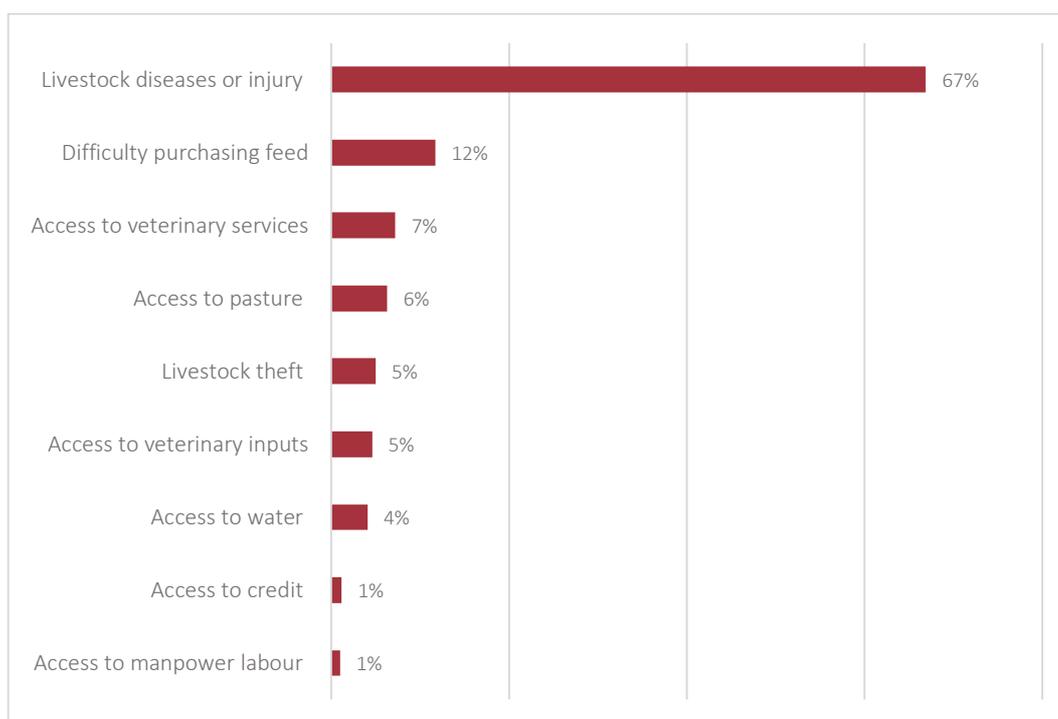
Fifty-four percent of crop producers in all provinces surveyed reported facing difficulties selling their crops. The major difficulties included low selling prices (41 percent), traders or customers not purchasing as much as usual, or crop producers experiencing delays in payments (19 percent), markets being flooded with products (15 percent), and high transportation and other marketing costs (13 percent).

Livestock

The percentage of households producing poultry decreased from 55 percent in the seventh round to 53 percent in the eighth round. Similarly, cattle-producing households reported a decrease in output (18 percent, down from 22 percent in the previous round). The percentage of households producing goats, however, increased to 19 percent from 18 percent in the previous round.

Fifty-six percent of livestock producers faced production difficulties in the three months preceding the survey. These difficulties included livestock diseases or injury (67 percent) and difficulties purchasing feed (12 percent) (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Main livestock production difficulties (percentage of livestock producers)



Source: FAO. 2023. Zimbabwe: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (July 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 28 August 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Fifty-one percent of livestock producers faced difficulties selling their livestock and livestock products. The main sales difficulties encountered by producers were low selling prices (37 percent), lack of demand from usual buyers (27 percent) and payment delays (20 percent).

Food security

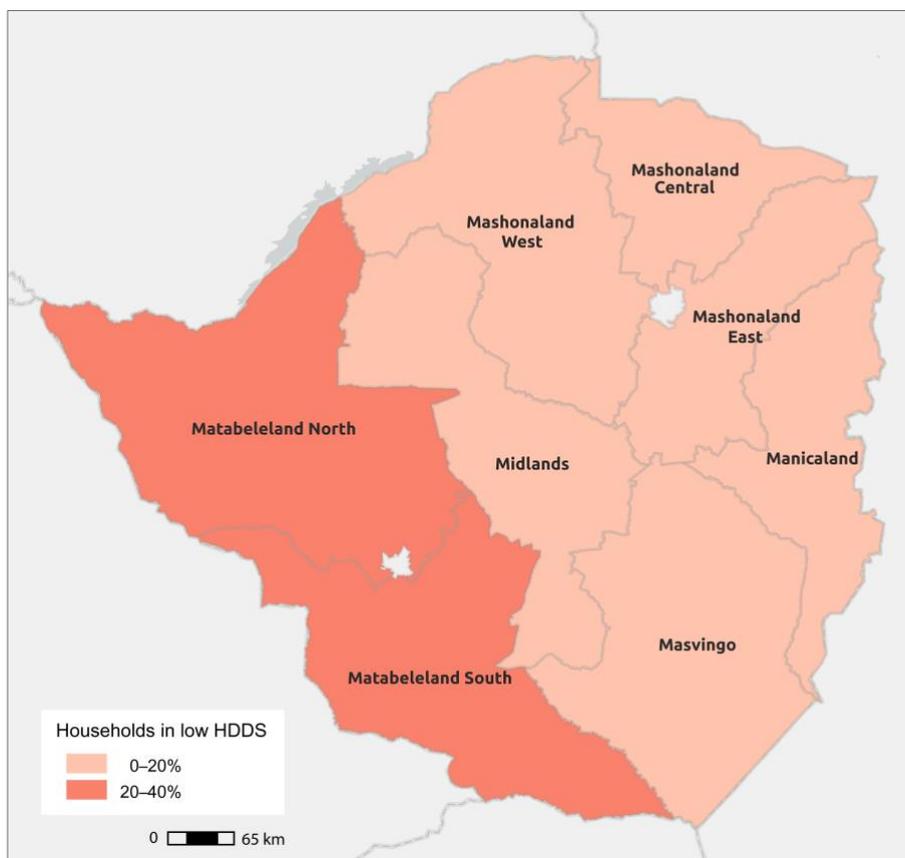
Twenty-nine percent of households (down from 41 percent in the previous round) ran out of food in the 30 days preceding the survey, while 21 percent (down from 24 percent) reported being hungry but could not eat and 15 percent could not eat for a whole day (up from 14 percent). According to the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES),¹ 4 percent of all

¹ FIES results are subject to change, until the country scale is established for more consistent comparability across rounds.

households surveyed indicated a prevalence of severe food insecurity while 46 percent experienced moderate to severe food insecurity in the four weeks preceding the survey.

The majority (64 percent) of households had a score of 0 (no hunger) on the HHS; 12 percent had a score of 1 (slight hunger); 11 percent had a score of 2 (moderate hunger); 7 percent scored a 3 (moderate hunger); 3 percent scored a 4 (severe hunger); 1 percent, the same as last round, scored a 5 (severe hunger); and 0.9 percent had a score of 6 (severe hunger), representing the same as the previous round. The HDDS indicated that the majority of households had high dietary diversity (66 percent). Twenty-five percent had medium dietary diversity and 10 percent had low dietary diversity (Figure 7).

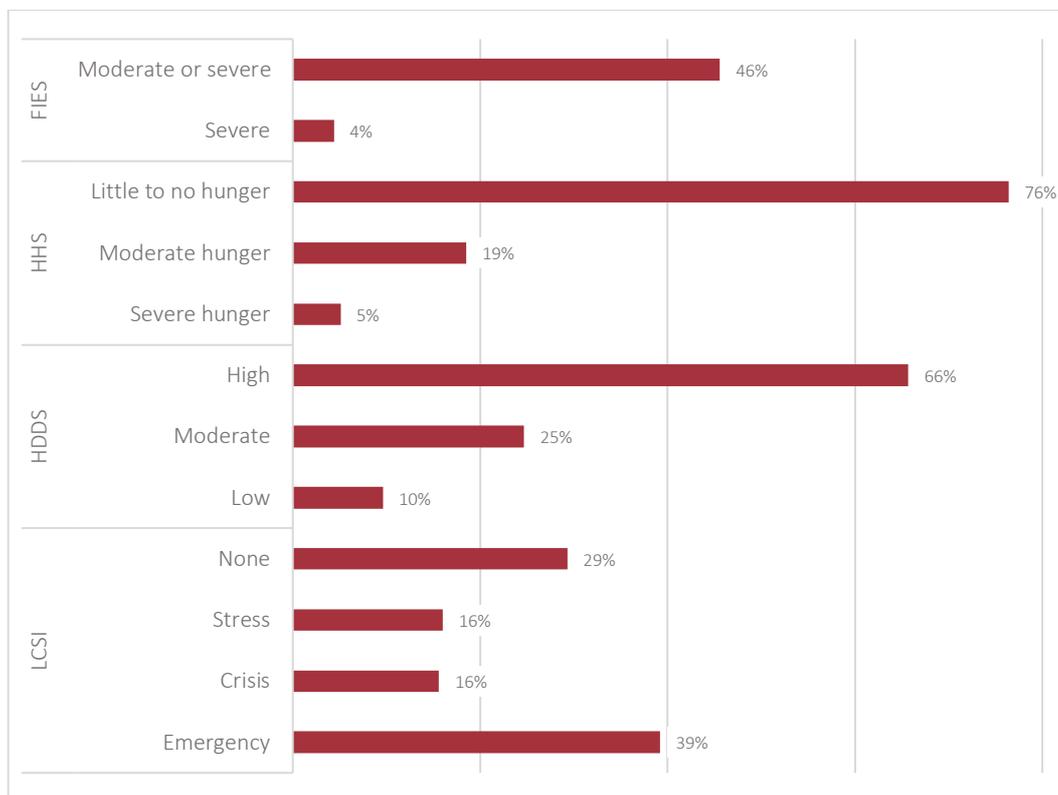
Figure 7. Proportion of households with low dietary diversity (by province)



Source: FAO. 2023. Zimbabwe: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (July 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 28 August 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

This eighth-round survey also collected data on household livelihood coping strategies. Many households used emergency strategies (39 percent), followed by stress strategies (16 percent) and crisis strategies (16 percent). However, 29 percent did not use any coping strategies (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Food security indicators (FIES, HHS, HDDS and livelihood coping strategies index [LSCI])



Source: FAO. 2023. Zimbabwe: DIEM-Monitoring assessments results (July 2023). In: *FAO Data in Emergencies Hub*. Rome. [Cited 28 August 2023]. <https://data-in-emergencies.fao.org>

Needs

Ninety-six percent of households reported needing assistance in the three to six months following the survey. The main needs reported included inputs for crop and vegetable production (56 percent), livestock feed (32 percent) and cash (22 percent). The need for cash assistance has been gradually decreasing over the rounds of data collection. The survey’s findings also indicate that in the three months preceding the survey the majority of households had not received any assistance (92 percent). Of the households that did receive assistance, the government (73 percent), followed by non-governmental organizations (14 percent), other UN agencies (5 percent) and the World Food Programme (4 percent) were the providing institutions.

Recommendations

Short-term recommendations

Income and shocks

- > Continue strengthening income security by diversifying incomes and hedging against inflation.

Crops

- > Support households to limit post-harvest losses with trainings on post-harvest handling, development and provision of harvest-handling technologies. Support access to fair markets by advocating for the implementation of fair market policies and market development.
- > Provide crop farmers with inputs for the 2023/24 season that are drought tolerant to counter the effects of the forecasted El Niño oceanographic phenomenon.

Livestock

- > Strengthen veterinary services in light of the prevalence of animal diseases.

Food security

- > Strengthen food preservation through proper storage.
- > Increase food access by encouraging even food distribution.

Long-term recommendations

Crops

- > Support the adoption of climate-smart agriculture.

Livestock

- > Livestock productivity programmes should focus on fair input and output markets, especially in the poultry sub-sector, to increase production.

Food security

- > Increase the rate of adoption of climate-smart agriculture.
- > Study the suitability of cash transfer programmes.



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