

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Zimbabwe

September-December 2010

Key Messages

- Maize prices in Harare are showing a stable trend and have gradually increased in recent months.
- Political tensions are undermining stability while the country is also facing an alarming outbreak of HIV.
- Although the food security situation was reported to have been relatively stable, around 1.7 million people require food assistance and agencies report a serious situation of hunger.
- The Government has put in place policies to assist farmers with agricultural input schemes and food aid distributions.

Background

The total population is 12.52 million with an annual the growth rate of 0%. Around 30% of the population was estimated to be undernourished while the proportion of HIV among adults is 14.3%.

Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2009 (WB)	12.523
Population growth rate - 2009 (WB)	0%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP	n.a.
Population below 1\$ PPP per day	n.a.
Rural population - 2009 (WB)	62%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2005 (WB)	19%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2005/2007 (FAO)	30%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	56%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	4%

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	44%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2008 (WHO)	42
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	82%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2009 (WHO)	14.3%

Prices

Maize prices in Harare showed a stable trend from May to September when they registered 0,23 USD/Kg. They rose to 0,26 USD/kg in October and to 0,29 USD/Kg in November. Compared to Maize US No2 Yellow which was sold at 236.17 USD/T in November, maize in Harare was 23% higher thus quoted 290 USD/T.



Source: [GIEWS Country Briefs](#)

Food Security Situation Assessment

According to the latest Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) and to the CFSAM, an estimated 1.68 million persons in rural and urban areas require food assistance mainly due to economic constraints which continue to restrict normal food access despite food being available on the market. FEWSNET describes a relatively stable food security situation from October to November; however it is expected to slightly deteriorate in December as the peak lean season approaches. According to OCHA, an estimated 1.7 million people will face severe food insecurity during the peak hunger season from January to March 2011. GIEWS reports exceptional shortfall in food production. FAO describes high undernourishment levels and IFPRI estimates the situation as alarming hunger.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT

Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2010

While basic food and non-food items are readily available on the market, limited incomes continue to constrain the ability to access food for many households. The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) estimates about 904,500 rural ...[more](#)

SCALE OF HUNGER (% of Undernourishment)

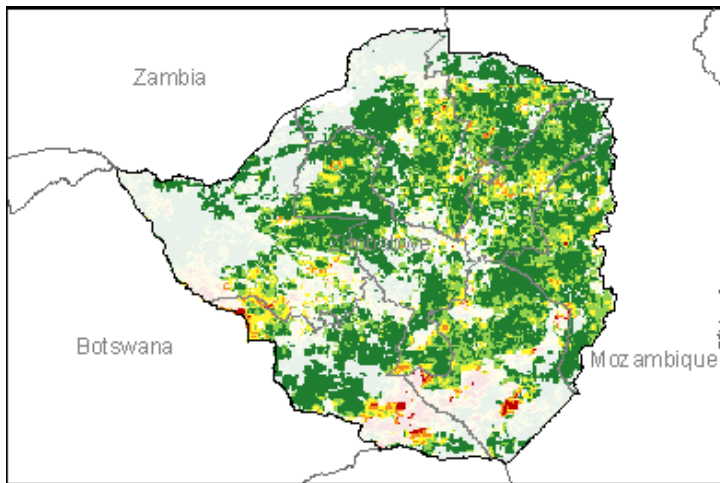
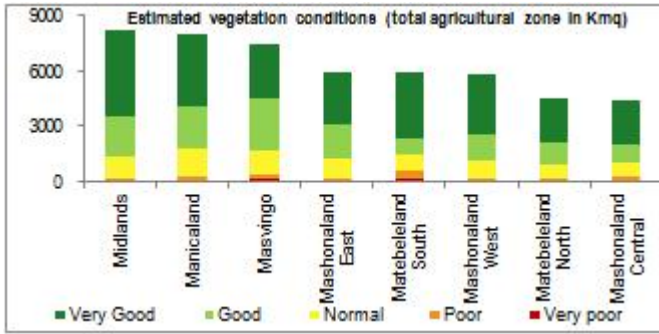
Very high (>= 35%)	High (25-34%)	Moderately high (15-24%)	Moderately low (5-14%)	Very low (< 5% under.)
				FAO Hunger Map

FAO Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.

Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low
				IFPRI/2010 GHI

Vegetation Condition

At this stage of the dry season, normal to good vegetation conditions are observed for all the country. The indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the relative difference between the NDVI for August 2010 and the average of the last 10 years on the agricultural zones derived from the GLOBCOVER database.



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Crop phase in the reference period

- Sowing** Maize - Potatoes
- Growing** Sorghum
- Harvesting** No crops are harvested during the reference period

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

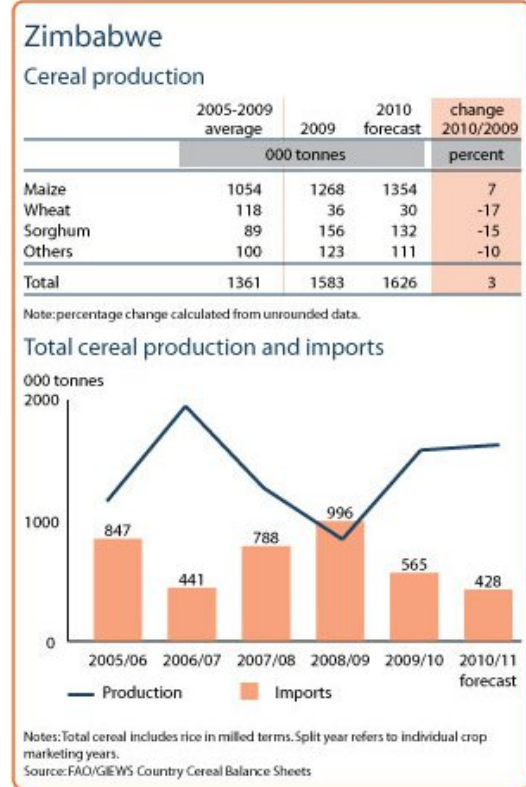
Tension has been rising in the unity government. Disputes over the holding of a new election only after reforming and approving a new constitution are dividing the Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and the President Robert Mugabe. Moreover the country is faced with some 60,000 new HIV infections.

Refugees and IDPs	2007	2008	n.a.
Total in the country	4524	3998	n.a.
Total outside the country	48707	51639	23872

Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 01/12/2010.

Food Balance Sheet

The 2010/11 cereal production is forecast at around 1.6 million tonnes, representing a slight increase (3%) from the 2009/10 output of 1.58 million tonnes and 19% increase from the five year average (1.36 million tonnes). Import requirements for the 2010/11 marketing year (April/March) are estimated at around 430,000T compared to some 570,000T in 2009/10 and 730,000T for the average.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Government Policies

The Government will assist farmers with seed and fertilizer distribution through the Humanitarian agricultural input support programme which will benefit some 905,500 households. Moreover food assistance programmes which started in October are expected to reach around 900,000 people through WFP support.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	Support to input for crop production.
Trade policy measures	n.a.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	Food assistance .

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

- [Zimbabweans Worry New Zuma Mediation Role in Ivory Coa...](#)
- [ZIMBABWE Food Security Outlook January through June 20...](#)
- [ZIMBABWE: New surge in political violence](#)
- [Zimbabwe: Epidemiological Bulletin Number 93 Week 1 \(w...](#)
- [Zimbabwe police 'thwart property invasion'](#)

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
Website: www.foodsec.org

Powered By the [GIEWS Workstation](#)