Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2014 Rural Livelihoods Assessment









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Foreword

The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) conducted the annual Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) number 13. The assessment is part of a comprehensive information system that informs Government and its Development Partners on programming necessary for saving lives and strengthening rural livelihoods in Zimbabwe. ZimVAC is the central pillar around which the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) plans to build its strategy to fulfil Commitment number 6 of the Government of Zimbabwe' s Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP) and monitor the implementation of the ZimASSET.

The 2014 RLA covers and provides updates on pertinent rural household livelihoods issues such as education, food and income sources, income levels, expenditure patterns, crop production, livestock production, food security, child nutrition, water and sanitation, crop post-harvest management and issues associated with it. In addition to paying particular focus on and putting households at the centre of its analysis, the RLA also collects and records rural communities' views on their livelihoods challenges as well as their development aspirations.

The RLA recognises and draws from other national contemporary surveys that define the socio economic context of rural livelihoods. Most notable amongst these are Crop and Livestock Assessments, the Demographic and Health surveys, the National Census, the Poverty Assessment Surveys and national economic performance reviews.

We commit this report to you all for your use and reference in your invaluable work. We hope it will light your way as you search for lasting measures in addressing priority issues keeping many of our rural households vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity.

We want to express our profound gratitude to all our Development Partners, in the country and beyond, for their support throughout the survey. Financial support was received from the Government of Zimbabwe, FAO, WFP, SADC RVAC and UNICEF. Without this support the RLA would not have been the success it was. We also want to thank our staff at FNC for providing leadership, coordination and management to the whole survey.

It is our joint honour and pleasure to present this report. We hope it will improve short, medium and long term planning aimed at improving the quality of life amongst rural Zimbabweans.

George Kembo ZimVAC Chairperson

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- Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare
- Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development
- Ministry of Health and Child Care
- Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing
- Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education
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- United Nations Children's Fund
- World Food Programme
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Famine Early Warning Systems Network

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- ORAP
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- Save the Children
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- Plan International
- Christian Care
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- CARITAS
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- Red Cross
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- BHASO
- ACQUACULTURE

Background and Introduction

Background – Economic Overview

- Zimbabwe achieved a real GDP growth rate of 5.4 % in 2009, 11.4% in 2010, reaching a peak of 11.9% in 2011.
- The economic recovery has had a growth decline from 11.9% in 2011 to 10.6% in 2012 and 3.4% in 2013 (ZimAsset, 2013).
- The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Zimbabwe was worth 10.8 billion US dollars in 2012 which was an increase from the 7.4 US dollars billion in 2011.
- The maintenance of the multi-currency policy and pursuit of other economic stabilisation and growth policies have ensured macroeconomic stability.
- The inflation is modestly below 5% (ZimASSET, 2013).



Background – Rural Poverty

- The prevalence of poverty in Zimbabwe was estimated at 63% with 16% estimated to be in extreme poverty.
- Poverty is more widespread in rural households (76%) compared to the 38% in the urban areas.
- A total of 30% of the rural people are extremely poor compared to 6% in urban areas.
- The proportion of extremely poor rural households was 22.9%, this fell from 50.4% in 1995/6 and 42.3% in 2001 (ZimSTAT, 2013).
- The prevalence of poverty among female headed and male headed households was almost the same at 62% and 62.9% respectively (ZimSTAT, 2013).



Background - Agriculture



- Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development estimates that the country will have a cereal harvest surplus of 253,174 MT in the 2014/15 consumption year from a total cereal harvest of 1,680,293MT (MoAM&ID, 2014).
- Livestock (cattle, sheep and goats) were in a fair to good condition in April 2014.
- Grazing and water for livestock were generally adequate in most parts of the country save for the communal areas, where it was, as is normal, generally inadequate.
- However, there are marginal parts of Matabeleland North and South, Midlands, Manicaland and Masvingo provinces which had inadequate grazing which may not last into the next season.

Background-Rainfall



- The country received normal to above normal rainfall in all provinces for the 2013/2014 rainfall season.
- The season performance was an improvement in comparison with the 2 previous seasons with southern parts of the country experiencing an improved rainfall distribution between January and February 2014.
- No prolonged dry spells were experienced unlike in the previous two seasons in the southern parts of the country whilst in the Mashonaland provinces and Midlands province, a dry spell was experienced from the second week of February to the first week of March.

Background – Nutrition and Health

- Over one third of children under the age of 5 years are stunted, i. e short for their age (ZDHS, 2011; FNC, 2010).
- The infant mortality rate of 57/1000 births (ZHDS, 2011) remains short of the desired MDG 2015 target of 22/1000 births.
- While some progress has been made towards reducing the rate of under-five mortality to 84/1000 births (ZHDS, 2011), this rate also remains short of the desired MDG 2015 target of 34/1000 births.
- HIV prevalence among the population aged 15-24 years was 5.5%. The prevalence in women is much higher(7.8%) than in men.
- Malaria incidence appear to have dropped from about
 5.8% in 2009 to 2.5% in 2011.



background that the 2014 ARLA was conducted.

Assessment Purpose

Guided by the ZimASSET particularly cluster number 1 and 2, the ZimVAC 2014 RLA aimed:

- To provide information that contributes to monitoring progress for the ZimASSET.
- To provide strategic information for rural livelihoods' revival and development.
- To identify the constraints to improved rural livelihoods as well as present opportunities for improving them in a sustainable manner.
- To assess the food and nutrition security for the rural population of Zimbabwe and update information on their key socio-economic profiles by June 2014.

Specific Objectives

- To estimate the rural population that is likely to be food insecure in the 2014/15 consumption year, their geographic distribution and the severity of their food insecurity
- To assess the nutrition status of children of 6 59 months
- To assess the availability and access to agricultural inputs and produce markets and identify challenges faced by small holder farmers.
- To identify and assess the functioning of current markets in rural districts of Zimbabwe.
- To describe the socio-economic profiles of rural households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, access to basic services (education, health services, water and sanitation facilities), assets, income sources, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies.
- To assess crop post-harvest management practices and identify opportunities for minimising potential post harvest losses.
- To identify shocks that impacted on food and nutrition security in all rural provinces.
- To identify development priorities for rural communities in all provinces .

Assessment Methodology

Assessment Methodology and Process

- The assessment design was informed by the multi-sectoral objectives generated by a multi-stakeholder consultation process.
- The assessment used both a structured household questionnaire and a community focus group discussion as the two primary data collection instruments.
- ZimVAC national supervisors and enumerators were recruited from Government, United Nations and Non-Governmental Organisations and underwent training in all aspects of the assessment.
- Ministry of Local Government provided 8 Provincial Coordinators for the assessment who in turn coordinated the recruitment of district level enumerators in each of the 60 rural districts of Zimbabwe.
- Furthermore, the Provincial coordinators mobilised vehicles used by district enumerators from various Government departments as well as NGOs in the respective districts.
- Primary data collection took place from the 9th to the 21st of May 2014, followed by data entry and cleaning from 12 to 27 May 2014.
- Data analysis and report writing started from 29 May to 9 June 2014. Various secondary data sets were used to contextualise the analysis and reporting.

Primary Data Collection Sample

- The sample was designed such that key assessment results were representative at district and provincial levels.
- The sampled wards were derived by probability proportional to size (PPS), using the ZIMSTAT 2012 sampling frame.
- At least one enumeration area was then randomly selected in each of the selected wards for enumeration.
- A minimum of 15 enumeration areas (EAs) were visited in each district.
- In each EA, 12 households were systematically randomly selected and interviewed.
- The final sample size for the survey was 10 782 households and 879 community key interviews.

Province	Number of Households Interviewed
Manicaland	1 260
Mashonaland Central	1 427
Mashonaland East	1 616
Mashonaland West	1 260
Matabeleland North	1 260
Matabeleland South	1 260
Midlands	1 440
Masvingo	1 259
Total	10 782

Sampled Wards



Sample Demographics

Sex of Household Head



- Most households (65%)were male-headed while 35% were female-headed.
- This was similar to proportions reported in the ZimVAC 2013 assessment.

Household Characteristics



- Most members of the households were aged 18-59 years followed by 5-17 years.
- The household dependency ratio was 1.8. This was similar to findings from the the ZimVAC 2013 assessment.

Household Size and Number of People Providing Family Labour



- The average household size ranged from 4.9 (Mashonaland East) to 6 (Matabeleland North) with a national average of 5.4.
- An average of 3 people in a household were said to be providing family labour for agricultural activities.

Adequacy of Household Labour for Normal Agricultural Activities



A total of 63% of the households reported having inadequate labour from household members for normal agricultural activities. These households may not be able to reach their agricultural potential if they do not get resources (financial and technological) to supplement the available labour.

Marital Status of Household Head



- The majority of the household heads (65%) were married and living with their spouses followed by 21% who were widowed.
- This picture is consistent with findings from previous ZimVAC assessments.

Marriage Status



• Of those household heads who reported being married (living together or living apart), 83% did not have registered marriages. This therefore calls for the ministry responsible for Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development to intensify advocacy on the importance of registering marriages in the rural areas.

Social Vulnerability Indicators



- Households with at least an orphan were 25%. This shows a decreasing trend from 2012 and 2013.
- Of the sampled households, 6% were hosting a chronically ill member compared to 7% in 2013.
- Only 6% were hosting a physically or mentally challenged member.
- There is generally a decreasing trend on vulnerability attributes such as the presence of a chronically ill, physically or mentally challenged member or an orphan.

Education

To describe the socio-economic profiles of rural households in terms of such characteristics as their access to education

Out of School by Province



- The 2014 RLA focused on children of school-going age aged 4 to 17. This includes children attending Early Childhood Development (ECD).
- The results show that nationally, 21% of the households had at least 1 child of school going age who was not attending school at the time of the assessment. This proportion was highest in Matabeleland North followed by Matabeleland South and Midlands. Mashonaland East and Manicaland provinces had the lowest proportions (16%).

Reasons for Not Attending school



- Financial constraints continue to be the most common reason why children are not able to attend school. In previous ZimVAC assessments, the proportion increased significantly from 44% in 2012 to 55% in 2013. While a decrease has been recorded this year (48%); this proportion still remains high.
- The proportion of households which reported that children were out of school because they were considered to be too young rose from 11% in 2013 to 22%. This could be a result of including children aged 4 years into this analysis.

Households with Orphans vs Children out of School



- The proportion of households with at least 1 child not going to school was found to be significantly higher in those households with orphans than those without.
- Matabeleland North (36%) and Matabeleland South (34%) had the highest proportions

Households with Disabled Members vs Children out of School



 The proportion of households with a physically or mentally challenged member as well as a child not going to school was found to be significant in all provinces. Midlands and Matabeleland North (37%) had the highest proportions while Mashonaland West and Masvingo (22%) had the lowest proportions.

Households with Chronically III Members vs Children out of School



 Chronic illness is one of the reasons why some children are out of school and from this survey, the proportion of households with at least 1 chronically ill member and at least 1 child not going to school was highest in Matabeleland South province (38%) and lowest in Mashonaland Central (20%).

Water and Sanitation

To describe households' access to improved drinking water sources and improved sanitation facilities

Households' Water Sources



- Improved water sources include piped into dwelling, yard, plot, borehole, protected well, protected spring, rainwater harvester, water trucking and bottled water.
- Unimproved sources are unprotected wells, unprotected springs and surface water.
- These results compare closely with those from the 2013 ZimVAC assessment. Nationally, access to improved water sources remains at 70%.
- Masvingo (38%) and Matabeleland South (37%) had high proportions of households accessing water from unimproved sources.

Proportion of Households Treating Water from Main Source by Method and Province

PROVINCE	Boil	Add bleach or chlorine	Strain it with a	Use water filter	Solar disinfection	Let stand and settle	Add water treatment	Don't treat
	%	%	cloth %	%	%	%	tablets %	%
Manicaland	3.5	1.5	0	0.2	0.1	0.1	4.9	89.5
Mash Central	4.7	2.2	0	0.4	0	0.1	4.4	87.6
Mash East	3.4	2.5	0.1	0.1	0	0.4	10.9	82.2
Mash West	5.5	1.7	0.2	0.7	0.1	1.3	5.2	85.2
Mat North	3.3	0.2	1.4	0.2	0	3.4	2.4	88.6
Mat South	5.6	1.4	0.1	0.2	0	0.1	2.5	<mark>89.8</mark>
Midlands	4.2	1.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	1.0	6.1	86.9
Masvingo	6.7	1.7	0.1	0.3	0.1	1.1	8.1	<mark>81.8</mark>
National	<mark>4.6</mark>	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.9	<mark>5.7</mark>	<mark>86.4</mark>

- A total of 86.4% of the households did not treat their water at all, with the highest proportion recorded in Matabeleland South (89.8%) and the lowest proportion in Masvingo (81.8%).
- Most households were using water treatment tablets (5.7%) followed by the boiling method
 ³³
 (4.6%).

Sanitation

Open defecation: Defecation in fields, forests, bushes, bodies of water or other open spaces, or disposal of human faeces with solid waste.

Unimproved sanitation facilities: Facilities that do not ensure hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact. Unimproved facilities include pit latrines without a slab or platform, hanging latrines and bucket latrines.

SHARED

Shared sanitation facilities: Sanitation facilities of an otherwise acceptable type shared between two or more households. Shared facilities include public toilets.

IMPROVED

Improved sanitation facilities: Facilities that ensure hygienic separation of human excreta from human contact. They include: Flush or pour-flush toilet/latrine, Blair Ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine, Pit latrine with slab, Composting toilet and Upgradable Blair Latrine (UBVIP).

Households' Sanitation Facilities



- Nationally, the proportion of households practicing open defecation remains unchanged from last year (39%).
- Matabeleland North (69%) and Masvingo (52%) had the highest proportion of households practicing open ٠ defecation while Manicaland (49%) and Matabeleland South (48%) had the highest proportion of households accessing improved sanitation facilities

Household Income & Expenditure

To describe the socio-economic profiles of rural households in terms of such characteristics as their income sources, income and expenditure patterns
Most Common Income Sources (April 2014)



- The most common household cash income source reported by the households was casual labour (21%).
- This was followed by food crop production/sales and remittances with 17 % and 11.4% respectively.
- This trend is the same as that obtained last year

Average Rural Household Income Levels in April 2014



- Nationally, the average household income for April 2014 was US\$111, an increase from last year's average of US\$95.
- The highest average household income was reported in Mashonaland West (US\$168), followed by Mashonaland East (US\$142).
- The least average income was reported in Matabeleland North (US\$83).
- Matabeleland North recorded an increase in average household income compared to last year.³⁸

Ratio of Household Expenditure: Food & Non-Food Items for the Month of April 2014

- Food items constituted the greatest share of most rural households' expenditure at 58%. This is a slight increase compared to last year (56%)
- Expenditure on non-food items was 42%. This is a typical expenditure pattern for poor households. According to the 2011 PICES, 76% of the rural households were classified as poor.



Provincial Outlook: Expenditure on Food and Non Food Items



- Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North and Mashonaland Central had the highest expenditure on food items (60%). The least expenditure was reported in Masvingo (56%) and Manicaland (55%).
- Generally, most households spent above half of their incomes on food items (58%).
- Provinces which reported high levels of own crop production had the least expenditure on food items.

Average Household Monthly Expenditure for April 2014 by Province



- Generally, there is a decrease in expenditure across all provinces.
- Mashonaland Central had the highest expenditure in April 2014 (US\$40) slightly above the national average while Matabeleland North had the lowest (US\$25).

Loans and Credit

To assess the level of membership to farmer groups and access to loans/ credit facilities

Membership to Farmer and Micro-Finance Groups



 Only 15% of households were members of at least one farmer group with the most common farmer group type being agricultural extension groups such as farmer field school or lead farmers.

Farmer and Micro-Finance Groups Membership



A total of 53% of the households were members of Agricultural extension groups, while 28% were members
of internal savings and lending (ISALs) and savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOS) and 17% were in
commodities associations.

Sources of Loans



- A total of 20% of the households had accessed loans and reported to have outstanding debts in the 6 months prior to the survey.
- The average loan amount was \$160 and the major reasons for getting the loan were, to buy food, agricultural inputs, pay for health and education costs and to **buy or rent land**.

Sources of Repayment Funds



- The majority of households (51%) intend to use agricultural activities to repay their loans or debts.
- Non agricultural activities and other sources of income are also contributing significantly towards repayment of loans/ debts.

Crop Production

Proportion of Households Growing Crops



- Maize remained the major crop grown by most households (88%) compared to 80% for 2012/13.
- Groundnuts was the second major crop being grown by households.
- Generally, the proportion of households growing crops increased except for cotton which showed a decline and soya beans which remained unchanged.

Average Household Cereal (kg) Production By Province

Province	Maize (kg)	Small Grains (kg)	Staple Cereals (kg)		
Manicaland	396.3	16.6	412.9		
Mash Central	468.5	13.1	481.6		
Mash East	444.3	4.6	448.9		
Mash West	771.9	2.2	774.1		
lat North 370.3		93	463.3		
Mat South	375.1	81.5	456.6		
lidlands 654		18.6	672.6		
Masvingo	399.7	126	525.7		
National	485	44.5	529.5		

- Generally average household cereal (maize and small grains) production (529.5kg) was higher compared to last season (346kg).
- Average household cereal production was highest in Mashonaland West and lowest in Manicaland.
- The contribution of small grains to total household cereal production was significant in Masvingo, Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South.

Sources Of Maize Inputs



- For the 2013/2014 agricultural season approximately 45.2% of the households benefited from the Government Input Support Scheme, which was the main source of inputs.
- The proportion of households accessing maize inputs through purchase remained unchanged (39%) from 2013.
- About 2.3% of the households accessed their maize inputs from NGOs which was a decrease from 4.0% in the 2012/13 season.

Sources of Maize Inputs by Province

	Purchase %	Government %	NGO %	Carryover %	Retained %	Remittances %	Other %	Pvt contractors %
Manicaland	49.2	33.9	2.4	1.6	7.0	4.6	0.1	1.2
Mash Central	36.0	51.6	2.1	1.5	4.6	2.3	1.3	0.5
Mash East	43.1	46.6	0.9	1.5	2.5	4.6	0.1	0.8
Mash West	40.7	45.2	2.0	2.8	4.3	3.3	0.9	0.8
Mat North	23.7	51.7	4.8	4.7	8.8	5.3	0.4	0.5
Mat South	29.2	56.7	1.9	5.1	1.9	3.3	0.2	1.8
Midlands	44.3	39.9	1.4	3.7	4.0	5.8	0.2	0.7
Masvingo	47.9	35.4	3.2	1.8	4.1	5.8	0.0	1.8
National	39.4	45.2	2.3	2.8	4.6	4.4	0.4	1.0

- The highest proportion of beneficiaries of the Government Input Support Scheme were reported in Matabeleland, followed by the Mashonaland provinces.
- The highest proportion of households which used carryover maize inputs were also reported in Matabeleland South and Matabeleland North provinces.
- There is minimal use of retained seed across the country with the range between 1.9% and 8.8%.
- The proportions of households which accessed inputs through remittances were highest in Midlands and Masvingo provinces.

Sources of inputs for other crops by Province (%)

	Purchase	Gvt	NGO	Carryover	Retained	Remittances	Pvt contractors	Other
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Small grains	15.2	6.7	2.8	15.1	35.9	20.4	3.6	0.2
Tubers	18.6	0.9	0.6	18	41.6	17.5	2.6	0.1
Pulses	31.1	2.8	1.3	14.7	34.4	11.4	2.2	0.1
Soya beans	54.9	1.8	0.6	6.7	21.3	8.5	1.8	4.3
Торассо	66.6	6.1	0.5	0.5	0.9	3.7	21.8	0
Cotton	17.6	1.6	0.2	1.2	0.8	4.5	73.9	0.2

- The major source of seed for small grains, tubers and pulses was retained. For tubers, mainly sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes, retained seed (41.6%) was common, followed by purchases and remittances.
- Purchases and government schemes provided the bulk of the seed used in the production of pulses. Soya bean seed was mainly accessed through purchases followed by retained.
- The main sources for tobacco seed were purchases and contract farming schemes. Contract farming schemes provided the bulk of cotton seed for the 2013/14 farming season 52

Livestock

Cattle Ownership



- Approximately 60% of the households reported not owning any cattle. Mashonaland East had the highest proportion of households not owning any cattle and Matabeleland South had the least.
- Nationally, only 14% of the households owned more than 5 cattle with Matabeleland South and Matabeleland ٠ North having a higher proportion of households owning more than 5 cattle.

Cattle Herd Dynamics



- The herd size was influenced by carryover from the previous season which accounted for 68%.
- Births and purchases contributed 15.5% and 1.5% respectively to the increase of the herd size in the last consumption year.
- Death was a major contributor to the negative change to the herd size (9%). Sold or bartered livestock (4%) and theft (1%) also contributed to the negative change to the herd size.

Goats Ownership



- A total of 58.9% of the households reported not owning any goats.
- Matabeleland South had the highest proportion of those who owned goats whilst Mashonaland East and Mashonaland Central had the least proportion.

Produce Markets and Prices

To identify and assess the functioning of current markets in rural districts

Average Maize Prices by Province



- The national average maize price was \$0.37/kg down from \$0.53/ kg during the same period last year. This pattern was also reflecting at the provincial level.
- Matabeleland South recorded the highest maize price (\$0.65/kg). This was the same pattern during the same period last year.

District Average Maize Grain Prices (\$/Kg)



Average Cattle Prices by Province



- Generally, cattle prices did not change significantly from the last consumption year.
- Matabeleland South had the highest average cattle prices (\$386) while Mashonaland ٠ Central had the lowest cattle prices (\$276)

District Average Cattle Prices (USD)



Cereal Produce Markets



- Most households reported that they sold their cereals to other households in the same area.
- Private traders were the second most used market to whom households sold their ٠ cereal produce

Irrigation Schemes

To assess rural households' access to irrigation schemes; and the functionality thereof

Proportion of Wards with Irrigation Schemes by Province

Province	Proportion of Wards with Irrigation Schemes				
	(%)				
Manicaland	28				
Mash Central	19				
Mash East	26				
Mash West	9				
Mat North	10				
Mat South	39				
Midlands	23				
Masvingo	23				
National	22				

- Matabeleland South (39%) had the highest proportion of wards with irrigation schemes.
- Mashonaland West (9%) had the lowest proportion of wards with irrigation schemes.

Functionality of Irrigation Schemes



- Of the wards with irrigation schemes, 44% had functional, 13% had partly functional while 43% had nonfunctional schemes.
- Compared to last year, there was an increase in the proportion of non-functional irrigation schemes and a decrease in the proportion of partially functional.

Functionality of Irrigation Schemes by Province



- Matabeleland North had the highest proportion of functional irrigation schemes whilst Matabeleland South had the lowest proportion of functional irrigation schemes.
- Mashonaland Central and Matabeleland South had the highest proportion of wards with non functional irrigation schemes (56%) while Matabeleland North had the least.

Proportion of Non-plot holders Indirectly Benefiting from Available Irrigation Schemes

- A total of 14.2% of the households benefited through casual labour opportunities, 15.8% benefited through availability of farm produce (for consumption and/or petty trade) and marketing opportunities.
- Only 4.5% of the interviewed households had access to an irrigation scheme and 94% of these households had access to functional irrigation schemes.



Household Food Consumption

To describe the socio economic profiles of rural households in terms of food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies

Number of Meals Consumed by Adults (5 years and above)



- Nationally, the proportion of adults from households which consumed 1 meal on the day before the survey dropped from 9% in 2013 to 6%.
- However, the proportion of adults from households which consumed 3 meals on the day before the survey
 ⁶⁹

Number of Meals Consumed by Children (6-59 months)



- About 35% of the children aged between 6 and 59 months had consumed less than 3 meals on the day prior to the assessment. This is a decrease from last year (43%).
- There is need to encourage behaviour change in households as these children are unlikely to be 70 consuming adequate nutrients necessary for their growth and development.

Food Consumption Categories



- Compared to the same time last consumption year, there was an increase in the proportion of households consuming an acceptable diet.
- There was a general decline in the proportion of households consuming poor to borderline diets.

Food Consumption Categories by Province



- Masvingo had the highest proportion of households consuming an acceptable diet (75%) and Matabeleland North had the lowest (54%).
- Matabeleland North had the highest proportion of households consuming borderline diets (37%) while Masvingo had the least (21%).
- Mashonaland West had the highest and Manicaland had the least proportions of households consuming poor diets at the time of the assessment, 12% and 6% respectively.
Average Days Selected Foods were Consumed Based on a 7 Day Recall



- Most households were consuming staple and vegetables with oil and salt on an almost daily basis.
- Meat and pulses were the least consumed food groups.

Household Dietary Diversity Score



- This analysis is derived from a recall of 12 food groups consumed by the household in the 24 hours preceding the assessment.
- There was a general positive shift, that is, more households consuming higher numbers of food groups.
- Most households were consuming between 5 and 7 food groups.
- More households consumed foods from 6 or more food groups in 2014 compared to 2013.

Household Coping Strategy Index



- There was a decline in household consumption coping strategy index in the past 2 years
- This suggests households are getting better able to access food without employing negative consumption coping strategies

Household Coping Strategies Index



- Most provinces engaged in less negative consumption coping strategies compared to last year except for Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland West.
- Masvingo had the biggest decrease in the proportion of households engaging in negative consumption coping strategies.

Household Hunger Score



- There was an increase in the proportion of households with little or no hunger from 81% last year to 86% this year.
- Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland West had the highest proportion of households that experienced moderate hunger
- Mashonaland West had the highest proportion of households that experienced severe hunger.

Child Nutrition

To assess the nutrition status of children aged 6 to 59 months

Child Illness



- There was no significant change in the prevalence of illnesses (fever, diarrhoea and cough) from the 2013 assessment.
- Prevalence of diarrhoea was 18%, fever 34% and almost half of the children had a cough (47%).

Percentage of Wasted Children Based on Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)

		Percentage		
	Number of Children Measured	Severe Wasting (≤115mm)	Moderate Wasting (116- 125mm)	
Manicaland	541	0.4	1.5	
Mashonaland Central	665	0.9	2.7	
Mashonaland East	671	0.4	1.9	
Mashonaland West	436	0.2	0.9	
Matabeleland North	663	0.5	1.2	
Matabeleland South	588	0.3	1.4	
Midlands	579	2.2	2.4	
Masvingo	554 0.5		2.3	
National	4697	0.7	1.8	

- Midlands had highest proportion of children with severe wasting (2.2%) while Mashonaland West had the least proportion (0.2%).
- Mashonaland Central had the highest proportion of children with moderate wasting (2.7%) while Mashonaland
 ⁸⁰

Number of Children with Oedematous Malnutrition

Province	Children measured	Number of oedematous children		
Manicaland	523	4		
Mashonaland Central	651	2		
Mashonaland East	661	3		
Mashonaland West	415	4		
Matabeleland North	632	8		
Matabeleland South	545	5		
Midlands	554	5		
Masvingo	537	5		
National	4518	36		

Matabeleland North recorded the highest number of children with oedema while Mashonaland Central recorded the least.⁸¹

Wasting Levels of Children 6-59 months for 2013 and 2014

	2013 %	2014 %
Severe wasting (MUAC ≤115mm)	0.8	0.7
Moderate wasting (MUAC 116-125mm)	2.6	1.8

- Wasting levels at 2.5% were lower than those observed at the same time last year.
- This is below national and global thresholds and is therefore considered acceptable.

Food Security Situation

To determine the rural population that is likely to be food insecure in the 2014/15 consumption year, their geographic distribution and the severity of their food insecurity

Food Security Analytical Framework

- Food Security, at the **individual**, **household**, **national**, **regional**, **and global levels** [is achieved] when **all people**, at all times, have **physical**, **social**, **and economic** access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for a healthy and active life (FAO, 2001). The four dimensions of food security include:
 - Availability of food
 - Access to food
 - The safe and healthy **utilization** of food
 - The **stability** of food availability, access and utilization
- Household food security status was determined by measuring the household's potential access to enough food to give each member a minimum of 2100 kilocalories per day in the consumption period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

Food Security Analytical Framework

- Each of the surveyed household's potential access was computed by estimating the household's likely disposable income in the 2014/15 consumption year from the following possible income sources;
 - cereal stocks
 - own food crop production
 - potential income from own cash crop production
 - potential income from livestock
 - income from other sources such as gifts, remittances, casual labour, pensions and formal employment.
- Total energy that could be acquired by the household from the cheapest available energy source using its potential disposable income was then computed and compared to the household's minimum energy requirements.
- When the potential energy a household could acquire was greater than its minimum energy requirements, the household was deemed to be food secure. When the converse was true, the household was defined as food insecure.
- The severity of household food insecurity was computed by the margin with which its potential energy access is below its minimum energy requirements.

Main Assumptions Used in the Food Security Analytical Framework

- Households' purchasing power will remain relatively stable from April 2014 through the end of March 2015, i.e. average household income levels are likely to track households' cost of living. This assumption is made on the premise that year on year inflation will average out at around 5% in the consumption year and the economy will grow by more than 5%.
- The national average livestock to maize terms of trade will remain relatively stable throughout the 2014/15 consumption year.
- Staple cereals in the form of maize, small grains (sorghum and millets) or mealie meal will be available on the market for cereal deficit households with the means to purchase to do so throughout the consumption year.
 This assumption is predicated on the Government maintaining the liberalised maize trade regime.
- The 2014/15 maize prices will average at around US\$0.39/kg nationally, US\$0.39/kg in the staple cereal surplus districts and US\$0.54 /kg in the cereal deficit districts. Maize price monitoring by Agritex, FAO and WFP informed this assumption.
- National cotton, tobacco and soya bean producer prices will average out at US\$0.35/kg, US\$3.71/kg and US\$0.50/kg for the whole 2014/15 marketing season respectively.

Food Security Trend (2009-2014)



- The 2014/15 consumption year at peak (January to March) is projected to have 6% of rural households food insecure. This is a 76% decrease compared to the previous consumption year.
- This proportion represents about 564,599 people at peak, not being able to meet their annual food requirements.
- Their total energy deficit is estimated at an equivalent of 20,890MT of maize .

Food Insecurity Progression by Income Source



- About 95% of the rural households were food insecure from only cereal stocks they had as of 1 April 2014.
- Considering own food crop production reduced the prevalence of food insecure households to 62%.
- When potential income from cash crops was added the proportion of food insecure households dropped to 59%.
- Adding potential income from casual labour and remittances, it further decreased to 54%.
- Potential income from livestock reduced the proportion of food insecure households to 49%. From there it falls to about 6% when income from other livelihoods activities were considered.
- Generally, food security has improved from all pillars compared to last year.

Food Insecurity Progression by Quarter



- Generally, there is a decrease in the proportion of food insecure households in all quarters compared to 2013/14.
- During the first quarter of the 2014/15 consumption year, 0.5% of the households already had insufficient incomes to access adequate food.
- The levels are expected to rise to about 1.6% in the second quarter.
- The third quarter will have 3.4% of the households projected to be food insecure.

Food Insecure Population by Quarter



- During the first quarter, 48,672 people could not meet their annual food requirements. This is an 80% decrease from last year's population which was food insecure during the same period.
- The last quarter is estimated to have a total of 564,599 people not being able to meet their annual food requirements.

Food Insecurity by Province



- There is a general decrease in the proportions of food insecure households across all provinces.
- Matabeleland North (9.0%), Matabeleland South (8.3%) and Mashonaland West (7.7%) were projected to have the highest proportions of food insecure households. These proportions are higher compared to the national average.
- Manicaland and Masvingo provinces were projected to have the least proportions of food insecure households.

Proportion of Food Insecure Households at Peak Hunger Period by Province



Districts with the Highest and the Lowest Food Insecurity Levels

Highest Food Insecurity Levels		Lowest Food Insecurity Levels			
District	Jan- Mar 2013	Jan-Mar 2014	District	Jan-Mar 2013	Jan-Mar 2014
Kariba	42	38.9%	Insiza	30.2	1.7%
Mudzi	17.9	17.8%	Makoni	26.9	1.1%
Umzingwane	44.1	17.2%	Masvingo	36.5	1.1%
Nkayi	38.9	13.9%	Mutare	16.1	1.1%
Bulilima	33.5	13.9%	Sanyati	12.8	1.1%
Tsholotsho	38.7	13.9%	Makonde	5.0	0.6%
Gokwe North	38.3	11.7%	Chegutu	8.3	0.0%
Zvishavane	51.7	11.7%	Chikomba	8.3	0.0%
Buhera	23.3	10.0%	Marondera	8.9	0.0%
Mangwe	49.4	10.0%	Mutasa	8.9	0.0%

• The highest proportion of food insecure households are estimated to be in Kariba (38.9%), followed by Mudzi (17.8%) and Umzingwane (17.2%).

•The least food insecurity prevalence is expected in Chegutu, Chikomba, Marondera and Mutasa.

Proportion of Food Insecure Households at Peak Hunger Period by District



Proportion of Food Insecure Households at Peak Hunger Period by Livelihood Zone



Post Harvest

To assess crop post-harvest management practices and identify opportunities for minimising potential post harvest losses

Households Treating Stored Produce



- A total of 64% of the households indicated that they treated their harvest before storage.
- Mashonaland Central had the highest proportion of households which treated their harvest before storage and Matabeleland South had the least proportion.

Treatment Methods

	Proportion of Households (%)						
	Ma	Maize		Pulses		Small Grains	
	Traditional	Chemical	Traditional	Chemical	Traditional	Chemical	
Manicaland	5.4	63.3	1.6	8.7	2.1	5.6	
Mash Central	14.1	67.7	7.2	20.1	5.0	12.2	
Mash East	3.3	68.3	2.0	13.2	1.1	7.8	
Mash West	7.1	63.3	1.0	11.7	0.8	4.0	
Mat North	15.8	28.0	3.4	4.4	8.5	9.9	
Mat South	7.1	31.3	2.2	7.3	5.6	12.8	
Midlands	12.8	63.2	7.2	16.5	6.6	14.4	
Masvingo	13.6	62.1	9.5	21.5	10.6	24.5	
National	9.8	56.6	4.3	13.1	4.9	11.3	

- Chemical treatment was the most commonly used method to treat all crops before storage.
- The proportion of households which used chemical treatment for maize and pulses was lowest in Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South.
- Compared to maize and pulses, the treatment of small grains before storage was minimal.

Produce Storage Structures



- Over 70% of the households reported storing their harvested crops in ordinary rooms.
- Traditional granaries emerged as the second most commonly used storage structure for storing harvested crops.
- Standard and improved granaries are still used by a very small proportion of households.

Challenges in Small Grains Processing



- Most households indicated that small grains are labour intensive to process while about a quarter indicated that the processing is time consuming.
- Only 14% indicated lack of processing equipment as a challenge to processing small grains.

Community Activities to Address Food and Nutrition Security Challenges

To identify development priorities for communities in all rural Provinces

Food and Nutrition Security Activities



 The majority of the sampled communities indicated that they were willing to engage collectively in community gardens, small livestock projects and income generating projects in order to address food and nutrition security challenges.

Food and Nutrition Security Activities with Assistance from Government and Development Partners



 Community gardens, dams and irrigation projects emerged as the highest community projects needing government and development partner support.

Community Livelihood Challenges

To identify development priorities for communities in all rural Provinces

Potential Community Challenges April-September 2014



 The most common potential challenges for April to September cited by the communities across the rural Provinces were: Water, sanitation and hygiene (23.6%), Markets (16.8%), Food shortages (10.4%), Financial Challenges (7.4%).

Potential Community Challenges October 2014-March 2015



- 26.2% of Communities foresee potential challenges in accessing inputs, food shortages 12.5%, and adverse weather patterns 12.3%.
- these challenges cited by communities will coincide with the period when households are preparing and 105
 planting for the next consumption year

Major Community Challenges



Poor roads 16.8%, poor water and sanitation 13.5%, irrigation production and water shortages 9.3%, inadequate health facilities 9.9%, poor access to education 9.3% and unavailability of agricultural inputs 7.0% were cited as major community challenges.

Community Development Priorities

To identify development priorities for communities in all rural provinces of the country

Community Development Priorities



Water shortages continue to be a development priority for communities. 22.4% of sampled communities prioritised improvement of water and sanitation, Irrigation, dam construction and rehabilitation.
Community Development Priorities By Province

		Mash	Mash	Mash	Mat	Mat			
Development Priorities	Manicaland	Central	East	West	North	South	Midlands	Masvingo	National
Infrastructure Development,									
Transport and Communication									
	16.9	17.6	15.0	16.0	15.2	18.9	19.4	15.0	16.8
Improvement of WASH,									
Irrigation, Dam Construction and									
Rehabilitation	22.0	25.7	21.7	21.4	21.1	20.6	22.9	23.4	22.4
Health Infrastructure and									
Development	10.6	9.1	9.1	11.1	13.8	10.8	11.0	10.3	10.6
Education Infrastructure	8.0	11.3	10.3	8.9	15.4	11.3	12.5	9.6	10.9
Electrification	8.7	6.5	8.7	6.0	4.2	6.1	5.0	4.9	6.4
Income generating projects	8.0	7.8	8.7	7.3	7.3	7.1	7.8	8.6	7.9
Agricultural Inputs, Implements									
& Markets	11.1	10.7	12.4	13.6	7.3	6.1	8.6	12.3	10.3
Livestock restocking, Grazing	5.1	3.7	5.1	5.1	5.1	10.6	5.2	5.2	5.6
Vocational Training Centres	1.7	1.7	3.2	1.6	4.5	1.7	2.2	3.4	2.5
Loans	2.7	4.3	2.8	4.6	3.1	2.0	2.6	2.5	3.0
Community Gardens	5.1	1.5	3.2	1.9	1.4	4.2	1.7	4.7	3.0
Access to Land	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.4	1.7	0.5	1.1	0.0	0.7

- Prevalence of household social vulnerability factors such as prevalence of orphans (25%), chronically ill member (6%) and physically/mentally (6%) challenged members remains relatively unchanged.
- With an expanded age group of children expected to be in school from 5-17years to 4-17years in 2013 and 2014, respectively, households with children out of school increased from 17% to 21%. The two main reasons for this remained financial constraints and parents considering children to be too young to go to school. This calls for greater support in mobilising financial resources for such programmes as the Basic Education Assistance Module and active promotion of the Early Childhood Development (ECD). Such programmes should prioritise households with at least an orphan or a disabled member.
- Despite 30% of the rural households' dependant on untreated water sources for their domestic water supply, less than 14% of the households treat their water before use. Furthermore, open defection continues to be a common practice for about 40% of rural households. This situation renders a significant proportion of the households vulnerable to water borne diseases such as diarrhoea and typhoid. Efforts to improve the water and sanitation situation in all rural provinces appear to have been negligible over the past five years and need urgent attention. Most notably in Matabeleland North and Masvingo provinces where open defecation continue to be most common.

- Average household income for April 2014 was USD 111 from USD95 in April 2013, an increase of about 20%. But casual labour, food crop production and sales, remittances and vegetable production and sales remained the most common household incomes sources in the two years. Both the low income streams from and the rather unreliability of these income sources is worrisome. Addressing the two income dimensions, income levels and its reliability, should be the central focus of poverty reduction interventions in the rural areas.
- Mainly due to favourable rainfall, ready availability of inputs on the market and the Government inputs support to smallholder farmers, the 2014 household cereal, groundnuts, sugar beans and tobacco production increased significantly compared to last season's harvest. This points to a significant improvement in rural household food availability and access.
- Purchases and Government were the main sources of maize production inputs. About 39% of the households that produced maize purchased maize inputs from the market and 45% got some inputs from the Government. Average household maize and small grains production increased by about 53% to about 530kg.

- While 64% of the rural households treat their grain before harvesting, over 70% of the households store the grain in ordinary rooms where they are vulnerable to pest attack. This is a cause for concern given that grain postharvest losses are estimated to be as high as 30% or even greater if the large grain borer is involved. Affordable and improved storage structures should be developed and promoted.
- Small grains production and processing for home consumption continue to be constrained by the absence of effective and affordable processing equipment that maintains taste and palatability. Research into these areas can considerably improve both production and consumption of small grains throughout the country.
- About 60% of the rural households do not own cattle and a similar proportion do not own goats. This does
 not only indicate low levels of stored financial household assets but also lack of productive assets with
 enormous capacity for providing household nutrition and overall resilience, particularly in the dryer parts
 of the country.
- In response to both increased maize availability as well as the general price adjustment taking place throughout the economy, average open market maize prices for April 2014 were USD0.37/kg down from USD0.57/kg in April last year. Given that Government has announced the floor prices of USD0.395/kg, appropriate measures, including adequate capitalisation of the Grain Marketing Board, should be undertaken to support this price level as the maize floor price for the season in all parts of the country.

- Comparison of the maize to cattle terms of trade for April 2013 to those for April 2014 show that an average sized cow/ox can be exchanged for about 940kg of maize this year, about 42% higher than the same time last year due to lower maize prices. This represents increased purchasing power for the staple cereal for cattle owning households.
- Over 70% of households that sell maize, wheat, sorghum and millets do so in their local markets, mainly to other households. This encourages good local food redistribution and availability at relatively low transaction costs in surplus areas but higher arbitrage in deficit areas far removed from the surplus areas. The Grain Marketing Board(GMB) can play an important role, here, in reducing rent-seeking maize pricing as well as stabilizing supply of the commodity in the grain deficit areas.
- Only 22% of the rural wards have irrigation schemes and about 44% of these were fully functional in May 2014. This means that most of the crop production upon which the rural population, and indeed the whole country, depends on is rain-fed and highly dependent on the variable seasonal rainfall amounts and distribution. The need for investment in irrigation to stabilise and improve crop production, particularly in the dryer parts of the country, cannot be overemphasised.

- Improved food crop production, other household incomes and livestock prices relative to grain prices combined to improve household food access in April 2014 compared to the same time last year. The proportion of households consuming a poor diet in April 2014 fell to 6% from 11% last April, while households found consuming an acceptable diet increased from 57% to 68% over the same period.
- While the prevalence of fever (34%), diarrhoea (18%), cough (47%) and severe wasting (0.7%) in children under five years were almost the same in May 2014 as they were in May last year, the prevalence of moderately wasted children decreased from 2.6% in May last year to 1.8% in May 2014. Prevalence of severe wasting levels of 2.2% in Midlands and of moderate wasting of 2.7% in Mashonaland Central require urgent attention.
- As a result of the combined effects of improved household food production that is expected to ensure stable food availability, improved household incomes from other farm and non-farm income sources (from modest wider economic growth), reduced staple cereal prices and stable livestock prices (predicated on good livestock conditions and availability of good grazing and adequate water), the prevalence of rural households likely to experience food access challenges in the 2014/2015 consumption year is 6% down from 25% in the last consumption year. This translates to about 565,000 people and an entitlement deficit equivalent to about 21,000MT of maize.

- Seasonal food assistance should prioritise districts projected to have the highest levels of food insecurity prevalence: Kariba (40%), Mudzi (18%), Umzingwane (17%), Nkayi (14%), Bulilima (14%), Tsholotsho (14%), Gokwe North (12%), Zvishavane (12%), Buhera (10%) and Mangwe (10%).
- The household projected food security situation is based on a number of assumptions about the most likely out-turn regarding staple cereal prices, cereal deficit households' purchasing power and staple cereal availability. These should be monitored to inform necessary adjustments to the food security projections as the consumption year progresses.

Annexes

Province	District	Food secure	Food insecure
p u	Buhera	90.0%	10.0%
	Chimanimani	97.8%	2.2%
	Chipinge	98.3%	1.7%
nical	Makoni	98.9%	1.1%
Mar Mar	Mutare	98.9%	1.1%
	Mutasa	100.0%	
	Nyanga	97.2%	2.8%
Total		97.3%	2.7%
Mashonaland Central	Bindura	97.0%	3.0%
	Muzarabani	96.7%	3.3%
	Guruve	92.8%	7.2%
	Mazowe	96.1%	3.9%
	Mount Darwin	90.5%	9.5%
	Rushinga	90.0%	10.0%
	Shamva	93.3%	6.7%
	Mbire	94.4%	5.6%
Total		93.8%	6.2%

Province	District	Food secure	Food insecure
nd East	Chikomba	100.0%	
	Goromonzi	98.3%	1.7%
	Hwedza	98.3%	1.7%
	Marondera	100.0%	
nala	Mudzi	82.2%	17.8%
asho	Murehwa	97.2%	2.8%
ž	Mutoko	97.2%	2.8%
	Seke	97.8%	2.2%
	Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe	92.2%	7.8%
Total		95.9%	4.1%
	Chegutu	100.0%	
lest	Hurungwe	98.3%	1.7%
Mashonaland W	Kariba	61.1%	38.9%
	Makonde	99.4%	.6%
	Zvimba	92.2%	7.8%
	Mhondoro-Ngezi	96.1%	3.9%
	Sanyati	98.9%	1.1%
Total		92.3%	7.7%

Province	District	Food secure	Food insecure
	Binga	91.1%	8.9%
d North	Bubi	98.3%	1.7%
	Hwange	92.8%	7.2%
lelan	Lupane	91.7%	8.3%
Matabel	Nkayi	86.1%	13.9%
	Tsholotsho	86.1%	13.9%
	Umguza	90.6%	9.4%
Total		91.0%	9.0%
Matabeleland South	Beitbridge	96.7%	3.3%
	Bulilima	86.1%	13.9%
	Mangwe	90.0%	10.0%
	Gwanda	91.6%	8.4%
	Insiza	98.3%	1.7%
	Matobo	96.7%	3.3%
	Umzingwane	82.8%	17.2%
Total		91.7%	8.3%

Province	District	Food secure	Food insecure
	Chirumhanzu	94.4%	5.6%
	Gokwe North	88.3%	11.7%
	Gokwe South	97.2%	2.8%
Midlands	Gweru	97.2%	2.8%
	Kwekwe	96.1%	3.9%
	Mberengwa	98.3%	1.7%
	Shurugwi	95.0%	5.0%
	Zvishavane	88.3%	11.7%
Total		94.4%	5.6%
Masvingo	Bikita	96.1%	3.9%
	Chiredzi	96.7%	3.3%
	Chivi	96.1%	3.9%
	Gutu	97.8%	2.2%
	Masvingo	98.9%	1.1%
	Mwenezi	96.1%	3.9%
	Zaka	94.4%	5.6%
Total		96.6%	3.4%
National		94.2%	5.8%

Proprotion of Food Insecure Households At Peak Hunger Period by Province



Proprotion of Food Insecure Households At Peak Hunger Period by District



Proprotion of Food Insecure Households At Peak Hunger Period by Livelihood Zone



Prevalence of Food Insecurity by Livelihood Zone During the Peak Hunger Period - Manicaland Province



Prevalence of Food Insecurity by Livelihood Zone During the Peak Hunger Period - Mashonaland Central Province



Prevalence of Food Insecurity by Livelihood Zone During the Peak Hunger Period - Mashonaland East Province



Prevalence of Food Insecurity by Livelihood Zone During the Peak Hunger Period - Mashonaland West Province



Prevalence of Food Insecurity by Livelihood Zone During the Peak Hunger Period - Matabeleland North Province







Prevalence of Food Insecurity by Livelihood Zone During the Peak Hunger Period - Midlands Province



Prevalence of Food Insecurity by Livelihood Zone During the Peak Hunger Period - Masvingo Province



Proportion of Food Insecure Households at Peak Hunger Period by Natural Region



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