



# Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe is fragile and requires close, continued attention. Widespread food insecurity is largely a result of shocks and stressors including recurrent drought, the effects of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, pests and diseases and rising food prices.

## Objectives

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working with partners in the Food Security and Nutrition Clusters to:

- Improve food access to enable vulnerable people to meet basic food requirements in order to save lives.
- Protect the lives of acutely food-insecure populations by providing food assistance and emergency agricultural support.

## Activities



### Restore crop production

provision of bio-fortified seed varieties



### Promote agroecology and improved pasture and rangeland management

organic fertilizer | agroecology demonstration plots | 'look and learn' training activities for livestock farmers | improved pasture/forage seeds



### Contribute to gender mainstreaming, learning and improved nutrition

training of peer facilitators | training in bio-fortified food preparation and consumption | training in healthy diets



### Increase livestock disease surveillance and rapid response

awareness raising | early warning alert dissemination | strengthening national and subnational disease diagnostic facilities | water point rehabilitation/repair | strengthening delivery of veterinary products



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# Zimbabwe

## Humanitarian Response Plan 2021



to assist  
**630 000 people**



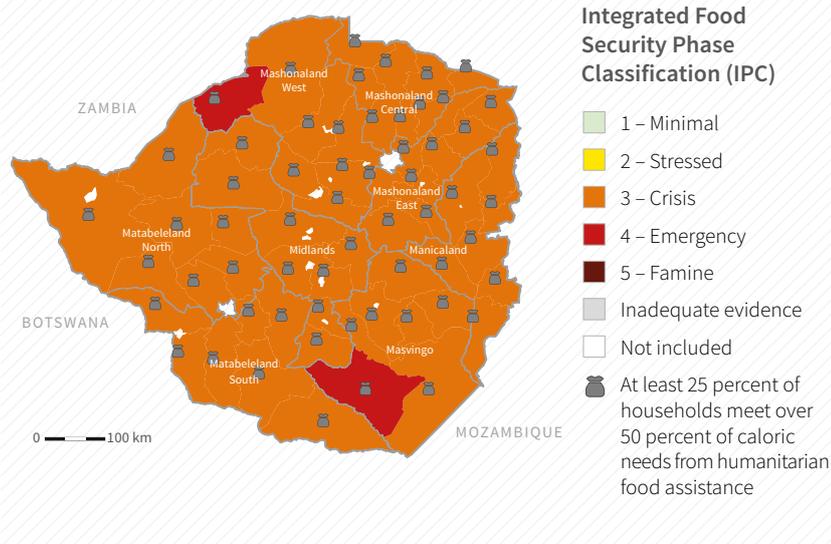
FAO requires  
**USD 20 million**



period  
**January–December 2021**

Season-sensitive, agriculture-based support is vital to enabling vulnerable households to rebuild their livelihoods and strengthen their resilience. With 35 percent of the rural population expected to be acutely food insecure during the peak hunger period in 2021, scaled-up humanitarian assistance is needed urgently.

## Projected acute food insecurity situation (January–March 2021)



Source: IPC. 2020. Zimbabwe: Acute food insecurity analysis, October 2020–March 2021 [online]. Rome, Italy. [Cited 15 February 2021]. <http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1152928/>

## Impact on food security

Challenging macroeconomic conditions, including soaring inflation, COVID-19-related income losses, and back-to-back poor agricultural seasons have eroded the livelihoods of millions across Zimbabwe and led to rising food insecurity.

Drought is a key threat to the agriculture sector in particular, which is composed of mostly rainfed farming systems, having caused water shortages, low production and food insecurity in recent years. Despite projections of a good 2020/2021 rainy season and improved crop production, yields are unlikely to rise above the five-year average as farmers face challenges in accessing agricultural inputs including quality seeds and fertilizer. This is mostly due to high prices and poor market supply. A wet environment may also create favourable breeding conditions for the African migratory locust, which has been plaguing Southern Africa since May 2020, further threatening crop production and agriculture-based livelihoods.

Livestock production is also under threat of declining as pastoralists face the effects of two years of low rainfall and overgrazing. In addition to a rise in mortalities, from 5 to 9 percent, livestock body conditions remain less than adequate and are likely to deteriorate due to a high risk of disease and limited access to veterinary drugs.

Increased surveillance of livestock disease and rapid response is also critical to maintaining the strength of the livestock sector.

Containment measures, particularly movement restrictions, implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19 have disrupted supply chains limiting the availability of some basic food items. Further, many rural households have lost access to remittances, a key source of income, and more than 50 percent of their earnings as they can no longer engage in key income-generating activities including casual labour and livestock trading. Consequently, households have been forced to adopt negative coping mechanisms, such as selling livelihoods assets.

There is a crucial need for scaled-up humanitarian assistance to help households meet their basic needs, enhance their coping capacities and improve their productivity. By protecting their livelihoods, millions of vulnerable Zimbabweans can be prevented from falling into even worse phases of food insecurity.

## Situation analysis



**3.38 million** people projected to be in high acute food insecurity



**+34 785** confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 1 353 deaths



**74 300 children** acutely malnourished, including 38 400 acutely malnourished



**60-70%** of population engaged in agriculture sector

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