



Oxfam GB Food Security Assessment

May 2005

Zvishavane, Chirumanzu, Gutu and Masvingo Districts

Midlands and Masvingo Provinces

Produced by Mary Khozombah (Consultant)

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- AREX in the four mentioned districts
- District Development Fund
- Department of Natural Resources
- Local Leaders e.g. Chiefs, Head Men, Councillors
- Veterinary Department
- Ministry of Health and Child Welfare
- District AIDS Action Committees
- Rural Unity for Development Organization - R.U.D.O
- Staff from Oxfam GB (including the technical support from the RMC)
- Key informants and various community wealth groups in the assessment areas.

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Acronyms

AREX	Ministry of Agriculture and Research Extension Services
DDF	District Development Fund
FEZ	Food economy zone
HEA	Household Economy Approach
MT	Metric tonne
RUDO	Rural Unity for Development Organisation
ZimVAC	Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Zvishavane and Chirumanzu districts in the Midlands province and Masvingo and Gutu districts in Masvingo province are all benefiting from programmes that Oxfam GB is implementing. (Directly in the first two and through a partner (RUDO) in the other two districts).

With the aim of understanding the food security situation and general livelihoods of people in its operational areas, Oxfam GB commissioned a food security assessment. The assessment was carried out in the four districts where Oxfam GB works from the 9th to the 27th of May 2005 and used the Household Economy Approach (HEA)¹ in the collection and analysis of data. A separate water and sanitation investigation was carried out parallel to the food security assessment by an Oxford-based water and sanitation engineer in the same area.

The assessment revealed that, taking all food sources into account, households in all the wealth groups met their minimum annual food requirements in the reference year (2003-04). Crop production is very important as a source of food for all wealth groups. However it was realized that even in a good or average agricultural year, the poor do not produce enough grain to last until the next harvest due to factors related to crop production such as access to draught power, agricultural inputs and their reliance on rainfall. Therefore the poor and some middle wealth group households have a variety of activities that help them supplement their grain deficit by earning cash that they can use to purchase food. These activities are supported by good community networks that help all households access food in different ways. The poor provide agricultural labour to the middle and better-off farmers in return for grain or cash payment. This relationship also allows the better-off farmers to access labour locally and produce higher yields.

This assessment confirmed that community gardens are a significant source of food and income for households in all wealth groups. Vegetables are either sold for cash or bartered for grain. The variety of vegetables grown is also important to the diet as vegetables have a high nutritional value. However, it is crucial to note here that the community gardens are dependent on water if they are to produce throughout the year.

All wealth groups have a wide range of activities that are important for income earning. However, activities such as gold panning (Zvishavane district), despite their large income returns, are a harmful strategy once their impact on the household's social fabric, care for children, HIV/AIDS and environmental damage are considered.

The drought that was experienced during the 2004-2005 season has had an adverse effect on crop production such that all the four districts only managed to harvest between 20% and 30% of their normal grain production. This drop had serious knock on effects on other sources of food and income and prices of other food commodities. Even if there is food in the market the poor and middle households will not be able to access their full food requirements. However, if food is unavailable on the market, then all wealth groups will be critically

¹ Save the Children (UK) developed the approach in collaboration with Food and Agricultural Organisation Global Information and Early Warning Systems (FAO GIEWS), to understand the likely effect of crop failure or other shocks on food supply. References available.

affected as coping mechanisms reported are largely income based e.g. the sale of livestock, craft and wild food sales and gold panning and even better-off households did not harvest enough grain to see them through to the next harvest. This finding is even more vital given the recent action by the government of Zimbabwe to curtail petty trading. Distress coping strategies that affect future livelihoods are likely to be used by many households in an effort to access food. Households affected by HIV/AIDS will be put in a very disadvantaged situation where they will have to make a choice between health and food.

The assessment also found that water and sanitation conditions were still very low in the assessed districts. Most of the boreholes, which are the main sources of safe water for human consumption, small kitchen gardens and small livestock, were not functioning in areas like Gutu and Masvingo districts since the communities could not meet the cost of repairing them. Some of the water points like dams that are used for irrigation of community gardens and watering livestock were also found to have silted and to be drying. The District Development Fund was also poorly funded to take on the task and some of the spare parts required are expensive. Sixty percent (60%) of the households in all the districts have no access to household latrines due to high construction costs and, at least partially some lack of knowledge of the importance of having one. The use of the bush for human waste disposal leaves the population in a very dangerous position since most have resorted to the use of open sources of water.

The assessment came up with remedial, medium and long-term recommendations to improve the food security situation of people in the next 12 months and improve their general livelihoods. Programmes that avail food were recommended as the communities are experiencing a minimum annual food deficit ranging from 40% - 75% between July 2005 and April 2006. Of great concern is the increasing unavailability of grain in the market that makes market oriented intervention systems impossible to consider and raises the spectra of widespread food shortages across the population, substantially increased levels of acute malnutrition, especially of young children, which would lead to increased morbidity and mortality.

It is recommended that food aid be provided as from July 2005 for the poor wealth group, which makes up about 40% - 50% of the population. The middle group, who are about 30% - 40% of the population, will need food aid as from August 2005, while the better-off should be considered as from October 2005. The programme should run up to the next harvesting period (April 2005). Regular and rigorous monitoring of food availability and prices will also be required. Interventions that support longer term livelihoods and improve water and sanitation are also crucial.

It is implicit in all recommendations that the needs of HIV/AIDS affected and infected households be taken into account, especially in regard to targeting as stigma and/or a lack of representation at community meetings and other fora mean that these households are at high risk of being excluded.

INTRODUCTION

Oxfam GB's mission is to work with others to overcome poverty and suffering. Oxfam GB is committed to improving emergency response times and preparedness and increasing impact by strengthening the effectiveness and accountability of its humanitarian work. Oxfam GB's programmes in Zimbabwe now and in the past include: targeted food provision through vouchers, distribution of seeds, seed fairs and fertilizer, livestock fairs, training on conservation farming and support to vegetable gardens and seed multiplication sites through micro irrigation as well as HIV/AIDS and gender mainstreaming.

The rainfall pattern for the 2004-2005 season was very erratic and poorly distributed with long dry spells that led to permanent wilting of most crops and poor performance of the replanted crops and others that had survived the dry spells. The result was a drought that affected both crop and livestock production since the rains received were well below normal such that dams, rivers and wells are likely to dry up much earlier than normal during the coming year. The market situation is also not very encouraging since prices of basic food commodities escalated soon after the March 31st parliamentary elections. Basic commodities such as sugar and cooking oil started to become scarce and people started hoarding and reselling at a profit on the black market. These were all indicators of likely food insecurity.

Oxfam GB decided to assess the Food Security situation in the areas where it is currently implementing programmes and hopefully link up with other agencies in the country for a more coordinated and effective analysis of the situation and response.

Objectives of the assessment

1. To assess the impact of the 2004-2005 drought on the food security situation of households living in parts of Zvishavane, Chirumanzu, Gutu and Masvingo districts (Oxfam GB's operational areas)
2. To understand the general capacity of the households to cope and recover
3. To gain a better understanding of the linkages between livelihoods and other issues such as HIV/AIDS
4. To identify short, medium and long term food security and livelihoods interventions

BACKGROUND

Zvishavane and Chirumanzu districts are located in the Midlands province, while Masvingo and Gutu districts are in Masvingo Province. Oxfam GB directly implements programmes in Zvishavane and Chirumanzu districts and through a partner NGO, Rural Unity for Development Organisation (RUDO), in Masvingo and Gutu districts.

Zvishavane is bordered by Mberengwa, Chivi and Shurugwi districts. It is subdivided into 28 wards. Eighteen of the wards are communal while the rest are resettlement and urban. Zvishavane is a mining town that boasts four big mining companies as well as several other small ones. These are Shabani, Mimosa, Sabi Gold and Murowa Diamond Mines. The companies mine gold, asbestos, diamonds and platinum. According to the 2002 population census, Zvishavane had a total population of 103,086 people and given an annual growth rate of 1.1%, it is therefore estimated that the population is currently at +/- 106,526 people. Water sources in the district include boreholes, dams, deep wells and rivers.

Chirumanzu has a total of 19 wards. Twelve of the wards are communal while 2, 1 and 4 are urban, new resettlement and old resettlement respectively. According to the 2002 census, Chirumanzu district had a total population of 70,441 people (16,319 households) and given a growth rate of 1.1% per annum, the current population is estimated at +/-72,791. The district has 17 clinics (3 private, 3 Mission hospitals and 1 government hospital). There are 6 dams in the district with two of these close to the border of the district. There are 12 irrigation schemes of which 4 are in the communal areas. The irrigation plots range from 0,1ha to 1 ha in size. Some of the irrigation schemes are not being fully utilized because of financial and management problems (absent landlords) as well as inadequate water capacity in the dams.

According to the 2002 census, Masvingo and Gutu districts had 195,179 and 198,130 people respectively. Therefore given an annual growth rate of 1.1% these population sizes could be estimated to be at 201,691 and 206,992 respectively. Masvingo is subdivided into 30 wards while Gutu has 36. In both districts water sources include boreholes, dams, rivers, deep and shallow wells. One ward (Nyajena) in Masvingo district has access to piped water that is treated. The quality of water from boreholes was reported to be good except for a few boreholes that produce salty water. In Masvingo district cotton is grown by the better-off and some of the middle farmers due to their proximity to a cotton ginnery in Chiredzi District.

Figure 1: Summary of estimated population in districts where Oxfam GB areas

Province	District	Population
Midlands	Zvishavane	106,526
	Chirumanzu	72,791
Masvingo	Masvingo	201,691
	Gutu	206,992

In the communal areas of all the districts, subsistence agriculture is the main livelihood activity for most farmers. During very good agricultural years some of the farmers have surplus produce for sale and barter. The major crops grown in the districts are maize and small grains such as sorghum, rapoko and finger millet. Cash cropping is also done with crops such as cotton, groundnuts and soya beans in some of the districts. However, according to the AREX officials, cotton growing has gone down in the districts because of the unfavourable cotton prices compared to the high production costs e.g. 1MT of cotton has been selling at Z\$800 for a long time while farmers indicate the cost of production is much higher due to purchase of fertilizer and chemicals.

Main livelihood activities in the four districts include:

- Crop and livestock production
- Vegetable gardening
- Fishing (Masvingo)
- Petty trade
- Beer brewing
- Hunting and gathering (Gutu)
- Gold panning (Zvishavane)

- Basket weaving (Chirumanzu)

Other activities include:

- Irrigation farming that provides some form of livelihood to households that are part of functional irrigation schemes in the districts.
- Gold panning, which is very common in Zvishavane district, with most panners along the Runde River that cuts across the district flowing to the lowveld.
- Livestock sales done by households in the districts. The main type of livestock is cattle. The Rural District Council cattle auctions are held every month if there are stray animals and cattle from farmers to sell. The main customers for the cattle auctions include the Cold Storage Commission, C.C. Sales and private buyers such as butchers and middlemen who later sell the beasts at a profit.
- Petty trading, which is also a very common economic activity in the districts with some traders crossing the border to buy commodities in South Africa for re-sale back home².

Chronic/Prevalent Crop Production hazards.

District and community key informants in all the four districts were asked to identify some chronic or prevalent problems that affected crop and livestock production over the years and the following were identified:

- Drought
- Lack of draught power
- Inability to purchase and/or access agricultural inputs.
- Tick borne diseases, e.g., red water, heart water
- Inadequate/over grazing, grazing land being taken over by resettlement
- Poor quality of grasses due to successive droughts
- Water for drinking since there is competition for water sources with domestic animals and garden use.
- Abuse of animals – some are overworked and beaten
- Wild animals killing livestock (e.g. hyenas and wild dogs, specifically in Gutu).

METHODOLOGY

The Household Economy Approach (HEA) (as developed by Save the Children UK) is a food security assessment approach that integrates very well with Oxfam GB's Food Security Assessment Guidelines that place an emphasis on participative, community based lines of enquiry. HEA was used in this assessment since it provides not only a framework for data collection techniques but also the data analysis method and presentation of results. In short, HEA describes the sum of ways normally used by a household to access food and income and its expenditure of food and non-food items in a recent reference period and how these differ between households in different wealth groups. The approach then analyses the impact of change. (a shock), from the normal, for example a drought or a rise in food prices and the ability of the households in different wealth groups to respond to the change.

² Note that since the recent national "clean up" operations in Zimbabwe (as reported on during the writing of this report) it is unclear what opportunities for trading will exist in the near future.

Since HEA needs personnel trained in the approach to use it in an assessment, Oxfam GB initiated a three-day training of its staff and partners in HEA from the 4th to the 6th of May 2005. The training also included other members of the Oxfam family operating in other provinces in the country. The purpose of the training was to equip the staff with the skills that are required to carry out a food security assessment using HEA. Team leaders who had many years experience in using the approach carried out constant supervision of the staff throughout the data collection and analysis period.

Data collection was carried out from the 9th to the 21st of May 2005 in four districts (Masvingo, Gutu, Zvishavane and Chirumanzu) that lie in three food economy zones. The assessment was carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Research Extension Services (AREX). The assessment team was divided into two teams with each team going to one province. The teams sampled two wards in each district where Oxfam was operational.

In each of the 8 wards visited in the four districts, preliminary focus group discussions were held with community leaders during which an overview of the situation was sought and a wealth ranking exercise was carried out to identify the different socio-economic groups in the area. Separate semi-structured focus group discussions were then held with representatives from each wealth group, during which a detailed description of access to food and income during a reference year was provided with the aid of participatory and rapid rural appraisal techniques such as seasonal calendars, ranking and proportional piling. Further information was gathered on expenditure patterns, coping strategies, the impact of HIV/AIDS and the likely changes to the situation in the next twelve months. The reliability of the information was ensured through crosschecking within interviews, between interviews and between primary and secondary data sources as well as triangulation with different key informants.

A total of 413 respondents (205 females and 208 males) participated in the assessment in the four districts. These included 28 district representatives of different government ministries and departments (10 females and 18 males) that included Ministry of Local Government, AREX, Veterinary, Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, Department of Natural Resources, District Development Fund and Rural District Council. At community level 112 key informants (25 females and 87) were interviewed. These included the chiefs of the wards visited, village heads, AREX officers, ward coordinators, members of the Ward and Village Aids Action Committees and other community members. It was noted that majority of the local leaders were male e.g. chiefs and headmen. Two hundred and seventy-three community members (170 females and 103 males) participated in a total of 54 wealth-based focus group discussions.

In addition, a separate water and sanitation investigation was carried out parallel to the food security assessment by an Oxford-based water and sanitation engineer in the same area. Some of these findings are included in this report.

Food Economy Zones

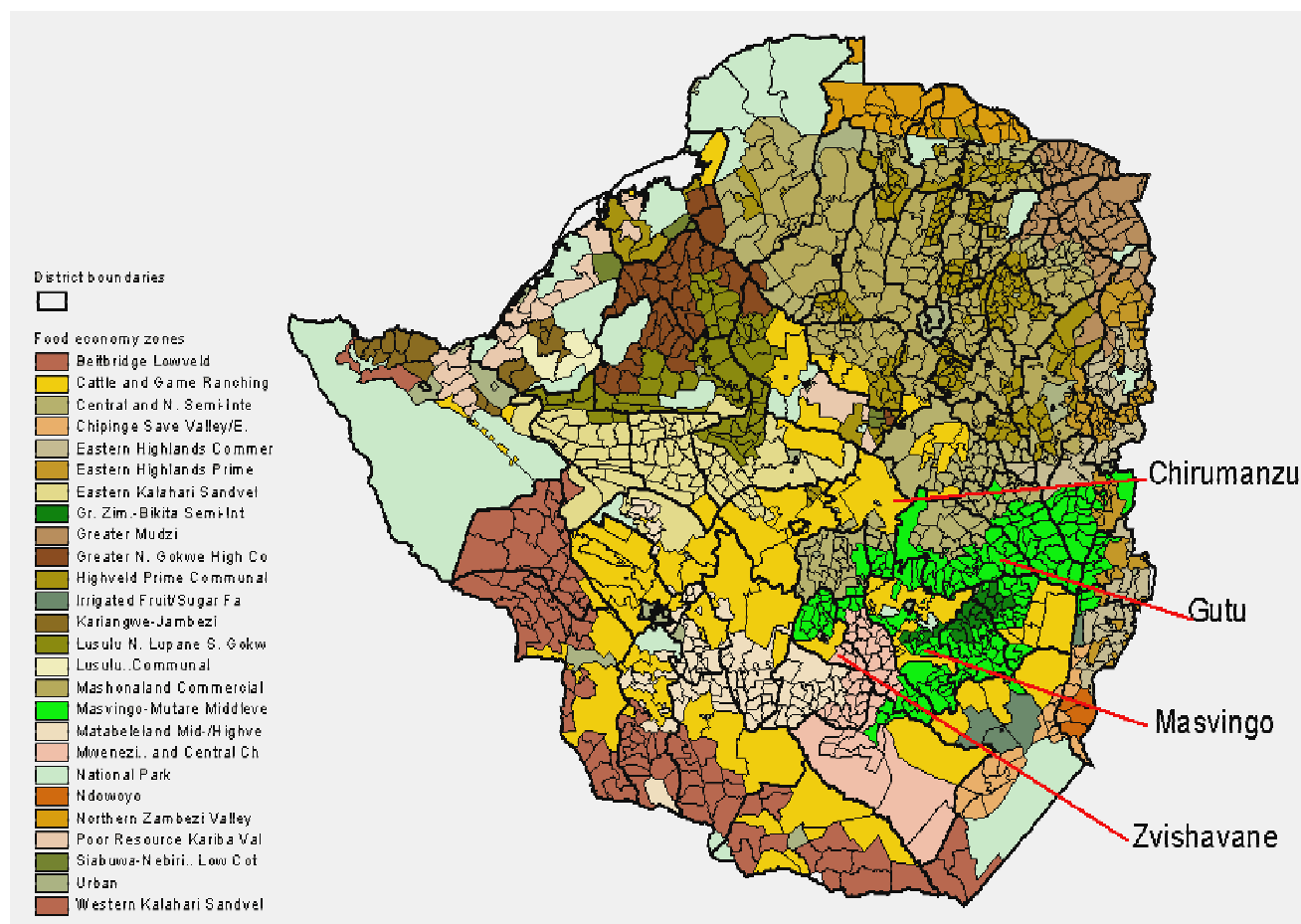
The normal process in HEA is to initially divide an area of assessment into Food Economy Zones (FEZs) before sampling of assessment areas. FEZs are areas where the majority of households obtain their food and cash income through a similar combination of means, where

people have similar livelihoods. Factors used to define FEZs include rural/urban, agro-ecology, rainfall, livestock holdings, water sources, altitude, markets, demography, vulnerability to shocks etc. Each food economy zone is vulnerable to a defined set of risks or shocks.

The map below shows the FEZs in Zimbabwe, as delineated by the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC). This was an update of the FEZs formerly delineated by Save the Children UK in 1996. The ZimVAC revisited the FEZ delineation in 2003 to take into account the socio-economic changes that had been brought by the Land Reform Programme. According to the ZimVAC Food Security Report of April 2004, in communal areas, livelihoods are more varied than in the commercial farming areas as they are based on different combinations of food, cash crop and livestock production.

In this assessment Zvishavane district was noted to be a very different FEZ from the other three districts because of extensive gold panning. The areas that were part of the current assessment for Gutu and Chirumanzu districts are under the Masvingo-Mutare Middleveld as shown in the map below. The secondary and primary data collected indicated a lot of similarities in livelihoods of people in these two districts. Therefore the findings of the assessment for Gutu and Chirumanzu districts were put under one FEZ. Masvingo district has quite a large part of it under the Cattle and Game Ranching FEZ as indicated in the map below. The assessment results also indicated that the district was drier than the others and had more livestock holding even for the poor farmers.

Figure 2: Map showing food economy zones and areas assessed



(map is from the Zimbabwe VAC)

Year ranking for the four districts.

Community leaders in the wards visited were asked to describe the past five years in terms of agricultural performance and other factors affecting their livelihoods and rank the years. (1 represents a very bad year and 5 a very good year). The following table presents the perceptions of the leaders across the four districts and was also crosschecked with data from other government departments such as AREX, Veterinary, etc.

Figure 3: Table showing year ranking

Year	District	Rank	Description
2005	Gutu	1	Poor rainfall pattern, heavy at times but with dry spells, late start to rains. Livestock diseases, unavailability of water for livestock production.
	Masvingo	1	
	Zvishavane	1	
	Chirumanzu	1	
2004	Gutu	2	Drought, below average production
	Masvingo	5	

Year	District	Rank	Description
	Zvishavane	4	Above average year. Some had surplus grain for paying back GMB for seed loans and then to get inputs for 2005. Good grazing and water availability.
	Chirumanzu	4	
2003	Gutu	3	Fair rains, good timing and distribution, minimum coping, food aid continued from previous year. Slightly below normal grazing conditions and some diseases but not a major problem.
	Masvingo	3	
	Zvishavane	3	
	Chirumanzu	3	
2002	Gutu	1	Drought led to poor harvests. Temporary migration (Masvingo) to Mozambique (returning the following year). Intensified Gold panning (Zvishavane) and distress consumption of wild foods used as coping strategies. Food aid intensive
	Masvingo	2	
	Zvishavane	1	
	Chirumanzu	1	
2001	Gutu	1	Poor harvests, drought, poor grazing for livestock, migration to search for work, food purchase from Bindura
	Masvingo	2	Impact of cyclone Eline, destruction of physical structures, cross border trading and migration to SA.
	Zvishavane	1,2	Poor harvests due to drought.
	Chirumanzu	2	

As indicated in the table above, only two out of the five previous seasons were considered average or good and the rest were ‘bad’ years that were characterised by droughts and, in one case, a cyclone. The harvest for the season 2004 – 2005 was reported to be very poor in comparison to the past four years. Most of the key informants in the eight wards visited argued that the current drought reminded them of the drought experienced in 2002. Most people resorted to a lot of distress coping mechanisms in 2002³.

Out of the 5 previous agricultural years, the year from May 2003 to April 2004 was unanimously selected as representing the most “normal” year in the four districts. It was seen as an average year agriculturally and most people’s livelihoods were stable with minimal coping mechanisms being employed by most households⁴. Therefore the year May 2003 to April 2004 was used as reference year in all the districts. The 2002-03 agricultural year was very bad due to a drought and therefore a lot of food aid programmes were implemented in all areas in the country. The food aid programmes continued in the following year since people’s livelihoods had not yet normalized due to the gap that had been created by lack of grain in the previous year.

³ Distress coping mechanism include: consumption of wild foods that are normally not consumed and require a long period to process, prostitution, gold panning and migration to nearby countries, among others

⁴ Note that this was a year in which food aid was widely distributed and so is only “average” in terms of the harvests people reaped, not in an overall sense. It would have been better to use a reference year when no food aid was delivered and harvests were normal but this would have entailed interviewees having to remember back more than five years which would have increased the unreliability of their answers to questions.

Figure 4: Seasonal calendar and household activity profile for all districts

XX – activity will be intense, h/h – household

Activity	Who is involved?	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Irrigation gardening	h/h	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Community Vegetable gardens	h/h women and children	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					X
Gold panning	h/h	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	XX
Land Clearing	h/h					X	X	X					
Putting manure in fields	h/h					X	X	X					
Planting (dry land farming)	h/h						X	X	X	X	X		
Fertiliser application	h/h						X	X	X	X	X		
Weeding (dry land farming)	h/h							X	X	X	X	X	X
Harvesting (dry land farming)	h/h	X	X	X									X
Winter ploughing	h/h		X	X	X								
Agric. Labour – weeding	Women									X	X	X	X
Agric. Labour – harvesting	Women	X	X	X									X
Fishing	h/h (men)	X	X	X	X	X	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
Beer Brewing	Women (clubs)	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	X	X
Pottery	Elderly women		X	X	X	X	X						
Peanut Butter making	Women					X	X	X	X	X			
Building	Men & women	X	X	X	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX	X	X	X	X
Wood carving	Men	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Basketry	women	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

The table above indicates the months during which various agricultural and other activities are carried out and which members of the household are most involved. Farming is an all year round activity as indicated above. However there are times when these activities will be less intense, generally after harvesting until around October when the first rains are expected. Although activities such as weeding and harvesting were reported to be done by everyone in the household, there was general consensus during the interviews that women do most of the work while the men plan and supervise their progress.

ZVISHAVANE DISTRICT

Wealth Breakdown

Key informants in the wards visited identified three broad wealth groups within their community referred to as the poor (“*Varombo*”), middle (“*Varipakati*”) and better off (“*Vawani*”). Livestock holding was the main indicator of wealth as large livestock (cattle and donkeys) are mainly used for crop production as draught power and as a source of income in difficult times (small livestock such as chickens and goats for the latter reason). Manure from livestock also improves soil fertility for the fields of those who have livestock. Milk and the sale of small livestock also act as important sources of income for the households. Those who lack draught power find it difficult to prepare their land and to plant on time since they have to wait for those who own these animals to finish the work in their own fields. The key informants noted that soil moisture is usually substantially reduced by the time the poor wealth group manages to plant its crop therefore affecting germination and the general condition of the crop. Since the main activity in the communal areas is farming, productive assets such as ploughs, scotch carts and harrows were used as indicators of wealth, as access to these makes a lot of difference to a household’s ability to produce higher crop yields.

Figure 5: Zvishavane wealth group ranking

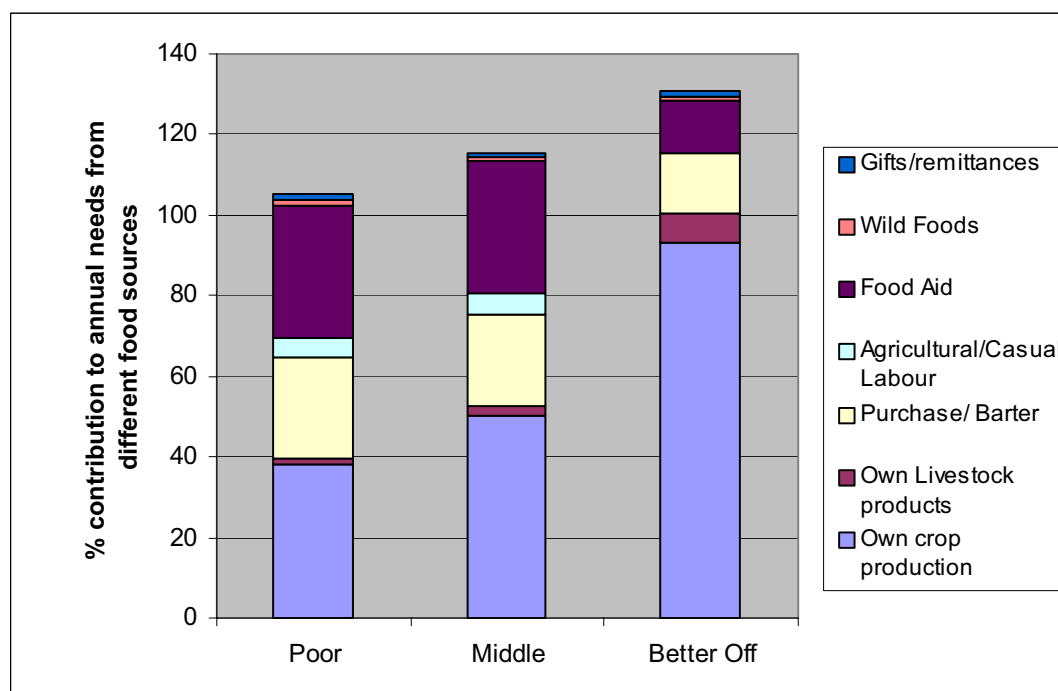
Wealth groups: Local names	“Varombo”	“Varipakati”	“Vawani”
Wealth group names (English)	Poor	Middle	Better-off
Household size	7-8	6	4-6
% Households in each wealth group (proportional piling)	41% (38-44%)	37% (35-39%)	22% (20-24%)
Type of housing	Mud huts. No toilet therefore use the bush or neighbour’s toilet	2-4 round mud huts, 2-roomed brick under asbestos, granary, toilet, some have wells at their homes.	3+ roomed brick under asbestos house Granary, toilet, protected well
Cattle	0 (no draught power, work for it or do without)	1 (use own and borrowed oxen for draught power)	2 – 8 Have draught power
Goats	0-4	0-5	0-10
Productive Household assets	Hand hoes	Plough, wheel barrow	Scotch cart, cultivator, wheel barrow, harrow, plough
Schooling levels attained by children	Primary- then work as house maids, cattle headers or do gold panning. No uniform, no jerseys, no shoes	‘O’ level, secondary, might have uniform but no shoes or jerseys.	Tertiary level. Have complete uniforms, satchels

Sources of Food during the reference year

The table and graph below indicate that all wealth groups managed to reach above 100% of their annual food requirements during the reference year, it must be noted that for most, food aid was an important component of ensuring food requirements were met.

Figure 6: Zvishavane food sources

Food Source	Poor	Middle	Better-off
	% Annual food requirements		
Own Crop Production	38	50	93
Own Livestock products	1.5	2.5	7.5
Purchase/ Barter	25	23	15
Agricultural/Casual Labour	5	5	0
Food Aid	33	33	13
Wild Foods	1.5	1	1
Gifts/remittances	1	1	1.5
Total	105	115.5	131



Crop Production

The contribution towards annual food requirements made by food crops grown by the households is very high in all wealth groups compared to other sources of food as shown in the graph above. The crops grown include maize, sorghum, millet, groundnuts, roundnuts (mbambara nuts), cowpeas, pumpkins, sweet potatoes and garden vegetables. These findings are consistent with the wealth breakdown made by the key informants. Even during an excellent agricultural year, the poor do not produce enough food to last them until the next harvest due problems such as access to draught power and inputs. The better-off get above 80% of their food requirements from own crop production since they have the draught power

and other implements and inputs required for crop production and thus eat from their own harvests from one harvest to the next in an average year and have surplus to sell. During a normal year in Zvishavane, the poor harvest grain that lasts them up to August or September, while the middle group harvests grain that lasts up to December or January.

Own Livestock

The level of consumption of livestock and livestock products such as milk and eggs is not very significant for the poor and middle wealth groups since they do not own a lot of livestock. Even the better-off indicated that animals such as cattle and goats are kept not for consumption but for difficult times when they are sold to pay for household needs such as school fees or funerals and cattle are mainly for draught power. As one community member noted, “*Ah kuuraya mombe yekudya, asi yatorwara zvekutaridza kuti haiponi kani?*” (“Ah! Killing a beast for consumption, it’s not possible unless it is so sick that there is no hope of it getting better!”). Goats and chicken are, however, slaughtered during festive seasons such as at Christmas time.

Purchase/barter

The contribution made by food purchased or bartered is very significant in all the groups. The poor depend on bartering garden produce for grain more than actually purchasing grain. As shown in the seasonal calendar, gardens owned by groups of households produce food from March to October, while gardens with irrigation schemes grow throughout the year. The produce from the garden is either sold or bartered for grain. Interviews with the poor wealth group indicated that such bartering ensured access to grain for their households for the whole year as they also dried the vegetables for bartering during the period when gardening would be in the off season. Items purchased by the three groups included sugar, flour, cooking oil and milk and ‘relish’ such as meat and fish. The quantities and frequencies of purchase depended on the financial capacity of the wealth group for example the poor could afford 2 – 4kgs of sugar per month while the better-off could purchase up to 10kgs or more.

Agricultural/casual labour

Labour exchange for food is limited to the poor and middle wealth groups. In the wards nearer other districts such as Chivi and Shurugwi districts, labour opportunities were reported to be higher as these areas had better payments and were better agriculturally than Zvishavane. A day’s work could be paid by 18-20kgs of maize grain and most poor people worked once or twice a week in other people’s fields. At times all members of a household worked on a task in order to complete it quickly and/or to spread the burden of work. Labour exchange activities include agricultural activities such as weeding, harvesting, land clearing and other off farm activities such as fencing, building and brick making.

Wild Foods and Gifts

The contribution made by these food sources is not very significant in a normal year since people eat wild foods not as a meal but a snack and gifts are very erratic. Gifts come mainly in the form of sharing a meal between neighbours. Some working family members provided money directly to pay school fees but not for general household use. The wild foods consumed are mainly fruits such as "shuma", black plum, marula and "nyii" which do not have a lot of calorie value but do contribute nutritionally to the diet, in terms of vitamins.

Food aid

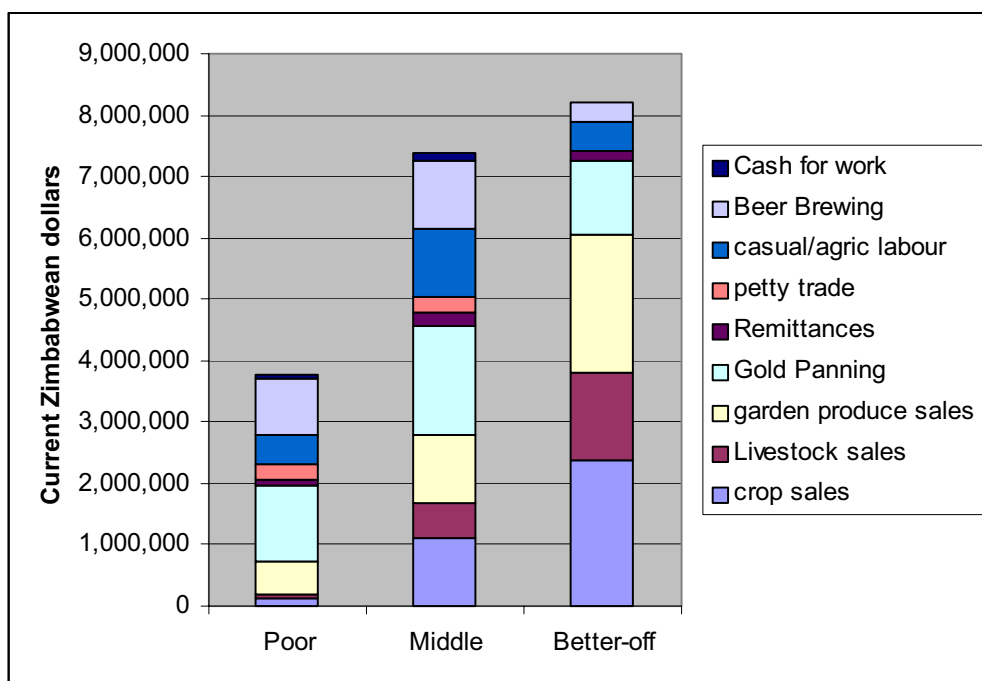
Food aid provided a substantial contribution to the diets of all wealth groups with the poor and middle getting 33% of their annual food requirements from it while the better-off got up to 13% in the reference year. Access to food aid by the better off could be an indication of problems with targeting since this group was food secure by its own means. However it could also be due to the influence of community systems/leadership.

Sources of Income

Due to the inflationary environment in Zimbabwe it was very difficult for the respondents to remember correctly the actual monetary value of activities that brought income into households. However, the respondents were able to remember times and frequencies certain activities were carried out by their households and others like them to bring income home. The details of the activities were noted but the current rate of payment or prices were used in an effort to understand the monetary value of the activities carried out by households in different wealth groups. The total annual income for the different wealth groups was then calculated.

Figure 7: Zvishavane sources of income

Source of Income	Poor		Middle		Better-off	
		%		%		%
crop sales	Z\$122,749	4	Z\$1,114,350	15	Z\$2,363,365	28
Livestock sales	Z\$55,795	2	Z\$557,175	8	Z\$1,445,346	18
garden produce sales	Z\$557,949	17	Z\$1,114,350	15	Z\$2,233,135	27
Gold Panning	Z\$1,227,488	39	Z\$1,782,961	24	Z\$1,205,808	15
Remittances	Z\$111,590	3	Z\$222,870	3	Z\$157,558	2
petty trade	Z\$223,180	7	Z\$245,159	3	Z\$0	0
casual/agric labour	Z\$502,154	16	Z\$1,114,350	15	Z\$472,673	6
Beer Brewing	Z\$900,000	10	Z\$1,114,350	15	Z\$315,115	4
Cash for work	Z\$55,795	2	Z\$111,435	2	Z\$0	0
Total	Z\$3,756,700	100	Z\$7,377,000	100	Z\$8,193,000	100



Gold Panning

Gold panning is a normal source of income for some communities in Zvishavane. People pan for gold along the Runde, a perennial river that runs through the district. Gold panning contributes a substantial amount of income for all groups. Gold panning accounts for almost 40% of the poor group's annual income and between 15% and 25% of the middle and better-off groups. Gold panning was reported to have helped some households build good houses and buy livestock in the past when gold deposits were still very concentrated in the area.

However, despite the positive impact of gold panning, district and community key informants and wealth group respondents concurred that its negative effects surpassed the positives by far. They reported that sometimes children were left alone at homes when adults relocated to the areas that had better gold deposits than those near by mines, which compromises their care and safety. There is also a risk that couples separated by this activity have extra marital affairs that promote the spread of HIV/AIDS. Further, young girls were reported to frequent the areas where gold panners congregated in an effort to make money through commercial sex work, putting them at a very high risk of contracting HIV. This is corroborated by evidence that shows that in Zimbabwe, Zvishavane district has the highest prevalence of HIV. Gold panning is thought to be contributing a lot to the rise of this figure. Further, the environmental damage caused by gold panning cannot be overemphasized since the rivers are silting at a very fast rate, trees are cut down and open holes are left all over. The gold from panning is sold to private buyers, who (most) are not licensed such that the whole activity becomes illegal and the police sometimes arrest the gold panners. Female gold panners are also subject to sexual abuse.

Sale of own crops.

Only the middle and the better-off groups sell crops from own production. The middle wealth group sells groundnuts and round nuts more than grains since they do not manage to produce surplus grain for sale. However, even when they do not produce surplus grain for sale some sell grain especially when they have to cover other household needs such as soap and salt. They then find other means of compensating for the sold grain by either purchasing or engaging in bartering. Production of cash crops such as cotton was reported to be decreasing in the district due to poor producer prices compared to high production costs.

Sale of garden produce

As indicated before in this report, gardening is also a very important activity as a food and income source for all wealth groups. It accounts for between 15% and 27% of the different wealth groups' annual income. Since different vegetables mature at different times of the year gardening ensures a good spread of income over all seasons and by so doing improves the seasonality of the food security situation of households. Dried vegetables are sold during the period when there are no fresh vegetables from the garden.

Agricultural/Casual Labour

All wealth groups derive part of their annual income from agricultural labour during the farming season and casual labour during the off farm season. Agricultural labour for the poor and middle involves tasks such as planting, weeding, harvesting, shelling and threshing for other farmers. The better-off hire out their draught power to the other two wealth groups and this is mainly paid in cash. Off farm casual labour includes brick moulding, fencing and thatching huts.

Beer Brewing

A portion of the millet and sorghum harvested and acquired through other means such as bartering is used in beer brewing and the beer sold for income. The poor and middle groups and some of the better-off indicate that beer brewing is a very popular way of paying such costs as school fees as the profits realized are very high. In some wards such as Guruguru, beer brewing clubs were formed in an effort to control over supply of the commodity in order to maximize demand and better returns. The club members not only contribute money that is given to one member at a time so that they manage to buy all the ingredients required for beer brewing but also give each other chances for brewing the beer so that there is no competition for customers. The club members have three to four opportunities of brewing and selling the beer over the year.

Livestock Product Sales

The importance of livestock sales as a source of income increases as one moves from the poor to the better-off group. The poor have relatively limited numbers and variety of livestock since they mainly depend on chickens while the middle also have goats but cannot afford to sell cattle since they also have a limited number. Livestock sales are mostly done when there is an important household need such as education or health costs (among others).

Other sources of income

Petty trade and remittances were indicated as some of the income sources used by some households but they are very erratic (remittances) and were not easy to recall especially the annual total received from such sources.

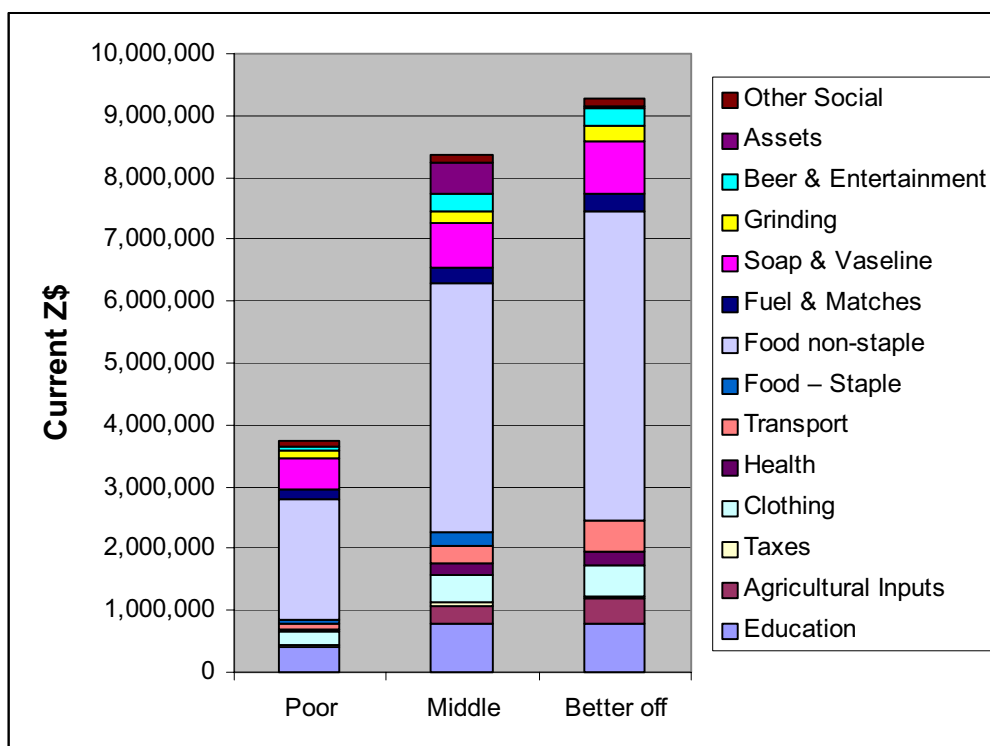
Expenditure

In an effort to capture “the story” and not lose it to memory loss due to inflation that affects frequent price changes to commodities, this assessment captured how the different wealth groups used their income during the reference year (i.e. the commodities bought or paid for, frequency and quantities) and the current prices or rates were then used so as to understand the relative cost of each expenditure category. Therefore the monetary values used in the graph and table below are the current ones not those of 2003 since respondents could not remember the prices then.

Some differences in expenditure patterns across the wealth groups were evident in this assessment. As could be seen in the graph and table below, the poor group expenditure is almost half that of the middle and a third of the better-off group. As indicated in the income and food sections, the poor prefer to barter and are paid more in kind than in cash for their labour, therefore their need to purchase is limited to commodities and services that definitely need cash to be accessed. The quantities and quality of commodities and services also depended on the buying power of each wealth group.

Figure 8: Zvishavane expenditure patterns

Expenditure Category	Poor		Middle		Better-off	
		%		%		%
Education	Z\$400,000	11	Z\$783,000	9	Z\$800,000	9
Agricultural Inputs	Z\$22,000	1	Z\$300,000	4	Z\$400,000	4
Taxes	Z\$30,000	1	Z\$36,000	0	Z\$40,000	0
Clothing	Z\$200,000	5	Z\$450,000	5	Z\$500,000	5
Health	Z\$45,000	1	Z\$188,000	2	Z\$200,000	2
Transport	Z\$96,000	3	Z\$300,000	4	Z\$500,000	5
Food – Staple	Z\$65,000	2	Z\$210,000	3	Z\$0	0
Food non-staple	Z\$1,938,000	52	Z\$4,016,400	49	Z\$5,010,000	55
Fuel & Matches	Z\$162,000	4	Z\$267,000	3	Z\$282,000	3
Soap & Vaseline	Z\$494,400	13	Z\$729,000	9	Z\$855,800	9
Grinding	Z\$120,000	3	Z\$180,000	2	Z\$240,000	3
Beer & Entertainment	Z\$90,000	2	Z\$288,000	3	Z\$288,000	3
Assets	Z\$0	0	Z\$500,000	6	Z\$50,000	1
Other Social	Z\$80,000	2	Z\$120,000	1	Z\$120,000	1
Total	Z\$3,742,400	100	Z\$8,367,400	100	Z\$9,285,800	100



It is evident from the graph above, that non-staple food category expenditure is very high compared to other expenditure lines/categories. The commodities purchased include sugar, cooking oil, salt, tea, fish, meat, milk and flour. However, the diversity of the basket depends on buying power of households in the various wealth groups. The better off have more choice of commodity selection and quantities. The poor have to buy very basic commodities and also buy them in relatively lower amounts than the other two wealth groups. The poor, for example, can only afford to buy 2kgs of sugar per month while the better-off purchased 10kgs. This is also evident even with commodities such as cooking oil where the poor only purchase when the money is there such that much of the time they go without oil. The prices for relish such as meat, fish and pulses are also prohibitive such that the poor's diet is composed more of vegetables from their gardens and the staple (sadza or maize porridge) even in good years. However, wild foods such as mice, fish and termites provide them with some much-needed protein and other vitamins.

Children's education is quite an expense for all the wealth groups. The community key informants and respondents in the wealth group interviews indicated that most of the poor could only afford to send their children up to primary school because of the costs that go with secondary education. At primary schools children are not sent back home if they do not have uniforms unlike at secondary schools. Even some of the middle wealth group households struggle to put their children through secondary schools since quite a number of children were said to drop out of school at that level. Most of the children who drop out of school eventually work as house maids in towns or herd livestock for better-off households in their communities and the majority of the boys go to do gold panning.

The middle and better-off group households purchase agricultural inputs such as seed and fertilizers. However, even for these wealth groups, the quantities purchased were not seen as adequate for the size of land cultivated since the prices were said to be prohibitive. AREX officials also highlighted this sentiment. The GMB and non-governmental organizations help out by providing credit schemes and agricultural input programmes respectively.

Health costs take a small percentage of the annual expenditure for all wealth groups not because it is affordable but because of the unavailability of drugs at the clinics and hospitals nearby. The price of drugs when available is very high

CHIRUMANZU AND GUTU DISTRICTS

Chirumanzu and Gutu districts are presented under one section as they share a lot of similarities in the livelihoods patterns. Specific differences will be highlighted where they exist.

Wealth Ranking

The community leaders in both these districts divided their communities into three distinct, broad wealth groups. The locally used names for the different wealth groups are similar to those used in Zvishavane and the differences are due simply to different Shona dialects.

Figure 9: Chirumanzu and Gutu wealth group breakdown

Wealth groups: Local names	“Vanoshaya”	“Varipakati”	“Vanowana”
Wealth group name (English)	Poor	Middle	Better off
% Households in each wealth group	43%(40-45%)	37% (35-40%)	20%(15-25%)
Land cultivated	1 acre	2 acres – 1 ha	1-3 ha
Crops grown	Maize and groundnuts (with more Pearl millet grown in Gutu compared to Maize)	Maize, groundnuts, rapoko, roundnuts (with more Pearl millet grown in Gutu compared to Maize)	Sunflower, sugar beans, wheat, Maize, groundnuts, rapoko, roundnuts (with more Pearl millet grown in Gutu compared to Maize)
Type of housing	1-2 round mud huts, No toilet, no granary	2 roomed brick under asbestos and some huts, granary, toilet, kraal, radio	3+ roomed brick under asbestos house, plastered, painted fenced, Granary, toilet, Kraals , shed for agricultural implements, orchard
Cattle	0 (no draught power, work for it or do without)	0-2 (use own and borrowed oxen/plough for draught power)	4+ Have draught power

Wealth groups: Local names	“Vanoshaya”	“Varipakati”	“Vanowana”
Wealth group name (English)	Poor	Middle	Better off
Goats	0	1-6	7-10
Pigs	0 (not in Gutu)	1-3 (not in Gutu)	2-7 (not in Gutu)
Donkeys	0	0-2	2-5
Chickens	0-5	6-15	Variety of birds – local or broilers, guinea fowls, turkeys
Productive Household assets	Hand hoes	Plough, wheel barrow	Scotch cart, water cart, cultivator, wheel barrow, harrow, plough
Schooling levels attained by children	O primary and level	‘O’ and ‘A’ level	Boarding schools, Tertiary level.
Income earning activities	Agricultural and casual labour, basketry, pottery, beer brewing	Livestock sales, Beer brewing, crop sales, formal employment	Pensions, garden produce sales, livestock sales, crop sales
Bad year coping strategies	Begging, Casual labour, gifts	Livestock sales, remittances	Livestock sales

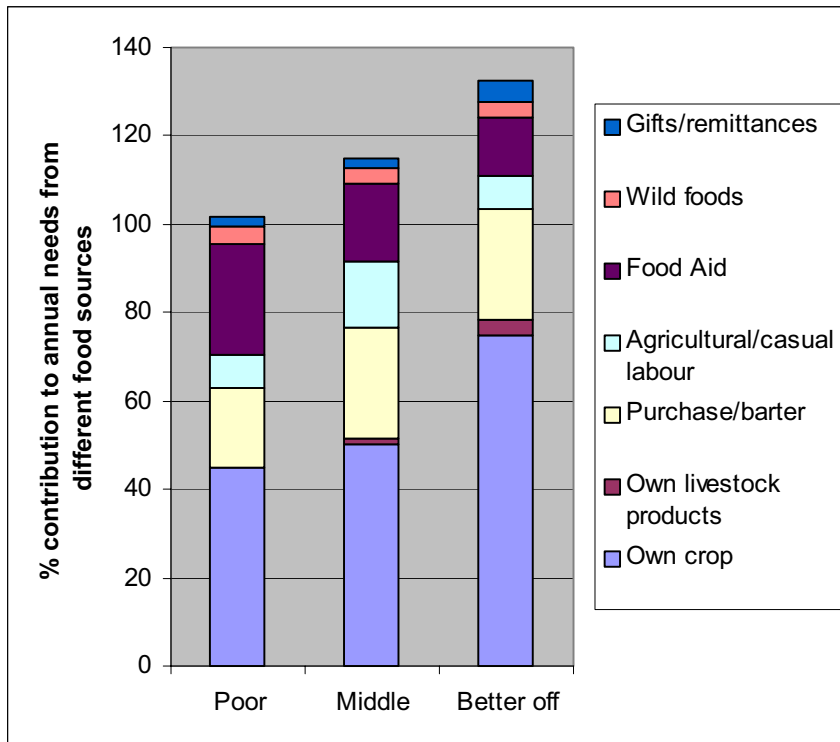
Since farming is the main livelihood activity in these districts, livestock holdings, especially large livestock such as cattle and donkeys, were the main indicators of wealth. Access to draught power affects the size of land cultivated, timeliness of cultivation and the variety of crops a household could grow as presented in the table above. Productive assets such as plough, cultivators, wheelbarrows and scotch carts were also identified as indicators of wealth. The poor group is 40 – 45% of the community while the middle and better off are 35-40% and 15-25% respectively. The poor in these two areas can afford to send their children up to primary and ‘O’ levels of education. Gold panning is very minimal and almost not practiced in these districts.

Sources of Food during the reference year

During the reference year, all wealth groups in this zone managed to meet their minimum annual food needs.

Figure 10: Chirumanzu and Gutu food sources

Sources of food	Wealth group		
	Poor	Middle	Better-off
Own crop	45	50	75
Own livestock products	0	1.5	3.5
Purchase/barter	18	25	25
Agricultural/casual labour	7.5	15	7.5
Food Aid	25	17.5	13
Wild foods	4	3.5	3.5
Gifts/remittances	2	2.5	5
Total	101.5	115	132.5



Crop Production

Consumption of domestic food production provides more than 40 % of the food needs for the poor households and 50% and 75% for the middle and better-off households respectively. Some of the middle and all better-off households manage to produce surplus crops for sale.

Purchasing/barter

All the wealth groups depend on purchase or barter in order to meet their food needs. Bartering of other garden produce for grain was also reported in these districts and is mainly done by the poor and middle wealth groups. In Chirumanzu, the irrigation scheme areas and the neighbouring resettlement areas have strong linkages with the communal areas when it comes to bartering. Since the resettlement areas have very limited access to shops, the respondents indicated that they bought sugar and other commodities like soap and took them there for exchange with grain and other crops grown there. This allows the poor and some of the middle to supplement their staple grain from own crop production. At the irrigation schemes they also procure wheat grain that they either boil or pound to make homemade bread. Purchasing is mainly for commodities like sugar and vegetable oil and grain from the GMB.

Own Livestock Products

Due to limited livestock holdings, slaughtering of livestock for household consumption was reported to be very rare, especially of large livestock.

Agricultural/Casual Labour

As indicated before, irrigation schemes in the new resettlement areas provide a wide range of employment opportunities for most poor households. Irrigation schemes provide employment opportunities throughout the year because of their access to all year round water. The better-off group in this zone hire out their draught power for either food or income.

Food Aid

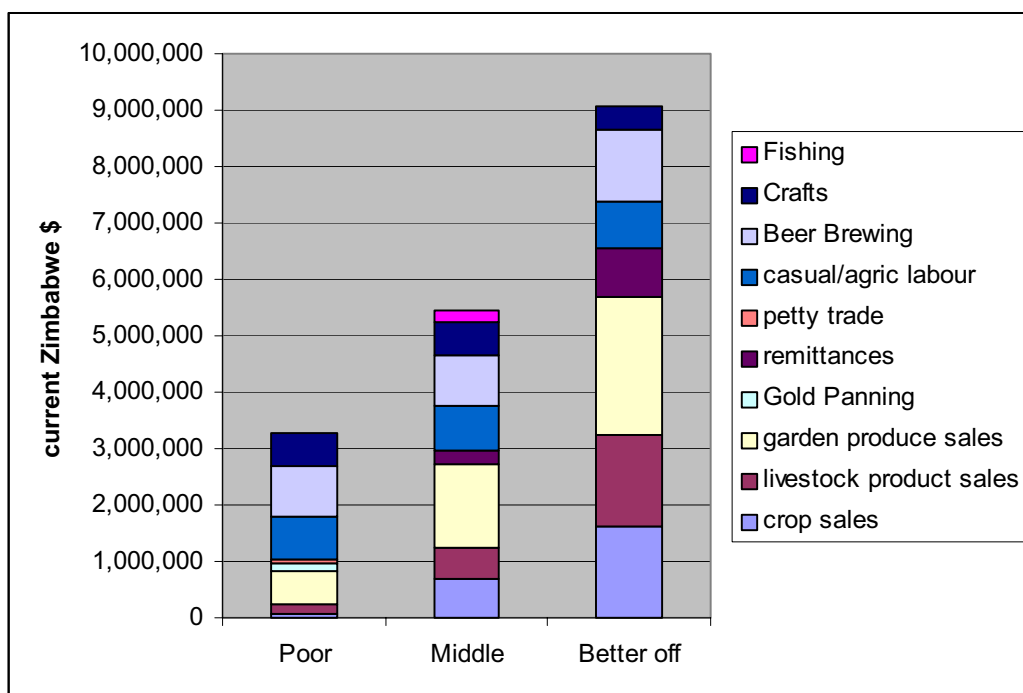
Food aid also contributed significantly to the annual food needs mainly for the poor and middle wealth groups in the reference year. Some of the better-off households benefited from food aid although they didn't really need it since they could manage to meet their food needs using their own ways as evidenced by the graph above. This could be the result of inaccurate targeting but it is also not easy to totally rule out the influence of community systems on targeted food aid programmes as indicated earlier.

Sources of Income

Income levels vary widely between the three wealth groups in Gutu and Chirumanzu. All the groups have a diversified income base. However, the better-off mainly depend on the sale of crops, livestock, garden produce and beer brewing. All these sources are linked to their own production of crops and livestock. The middle and poor depend on casual labour, garden produce and beer brewing.

Figure 11: Chirumanzu and Gutu income sources

Income Source	Poor		Middle		Better-off	
		%		%		%
Crop sales	Z\$75,000	2	Z\$675,000	12	Z\$1,620,000	18
Livestock product sales	Z\$150,000	5	Z\$562,500	10	Z\$1,620,000	18
Garden produce sales	Z\$600,000	18	Z\$1,500,000	28	Z\$2,450,000	28
Gold Panning	Z\$150,000	5	Z\$0	0	Z\$0	0
Remittances	Z\$0	0	Z\$225,000	4	Z\$850,000	9
Petty trade	Z\$45,000	1	Z\$0	0	Z\$0	0
Casual/agric labour	Z\$760,000	23	Z\$790,000	14	Z\$850,000	9
Beer Brewing	Z\$910,000	28	Z\$900,000	17	Z\$1,275,000	14
Crafts	Z\$600,000	18	Z\$580,000	11	Z\$400,000	4
Fishing	Z\$0	0	Z\$225,000	4	Z\$0	0
Total	Z\$3,290,000	100	Z\$5,457,500	100	Z\$9,065,000	100



Sale of Own Crops

The middle and better-off groups normally manage to sell crops during a normal year. The poor especially in Gutu also manage to sell part of their groundnuts since a private company in Gutu (REAPERS) encourages farmers to grow the crop and buys it from them.

Livestock Sales

Livestock was sold when a household seriously needed income especially at the beginning of school terms or for medication. Small livestock like chickens were, however, sold if the numbers increased since feeding them becomes difficult as they feed on small grains. Milk has a ready market in the community and at the local schools. Some better-off households reported that they keep a regular list of customers for fresh milk and most of these are local schoolteachers and other government workers.

Sale of Garden Produce

Gardening is also very important in these two districts as it provides income all year round. Further, the presence of boarding schools and hospitals in Chirumanzu and Gutu provides a big and ready market for garden produce especially from community gardens. Vegetables are also dried during periods of excess production and are sold during the period of limited production. However, the drying of vegetables is still at very low levels.

Beer Brewing

This is a very important source of income for all the groups. In Gutu where there is more production of small grains, the sale of beer has become widespread such that even at community meetings and public functions you find people selling it. The better off produce

more small grains than the other two groups therefore they can brew beer more often than the others. Beer for rituals and get together parties is not sold; people are just given to drink.

Crafts

Basketry in Chirumanzu is a very widespread craft that is helping a lot of households earn income throughout the year. People who specialize in the craft make more money than has been presented in this report. The local Roman Catholic Mission in Chirumanzu promotes this craft and helps the people sell their products. Customers come from as far as Harare, Masvingo and Gweru and buy the products at very cheap prices for resale. In Gutu mat making is the craft largely done for income earning.

Casual/Agricultural labour

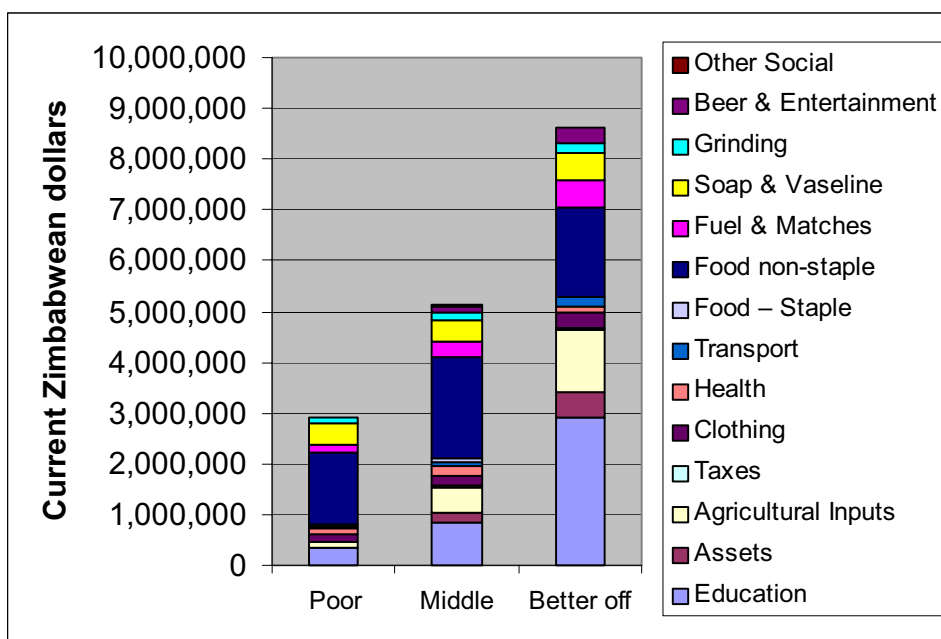
In this zone all the wealth groups earn income from working for others in a number of piecework jobs that are both agricultural and non-agricultural. Wards that are at the borders with resettlement areas have access to labour opportunities in these areas as the farmers there have bigger areas under cultivation.

Expenditure

As presented in the table and graph below, besides foodstuffs, education takes quite a big percentage of the income of all the groups.

Figure 12: Chirumanzu and Gutu annual expenditure

Expenditure Category	Poor		Middle		Better-off	
		%		%		%
Education	Z\$350,000	12	Z\$840,000	16	Z\$2,902,500	35
Assets	Z\$0	0	Z\$200,000	4	Z\$500,000	6
Agricultural Inputs	Z\$95,000	3	Z\$494,000	10	Z\$1,230,000	14
Taxes	Z\$20,000	1	Z\$26,000	1	Z\$46,000	1
Clothing	Z\$150,000	5	Z\$200,000	4	Z\$300,000	3
Health	Z\$96,700	3	Z\$180,500	4	Z\$120,000	1
Transport	Z\$50,000	2	Z\$80,000	2	Z\$200,000	2
Food – Staple	Z\$60,000	2	Z\$90,000	2	Z\$0	0
Food non-staple	Z\$1,401,200	48	Z\$2,007,650	38	Z\$1,740,000	21
Fuel & Matches	Z\$170,000	6	Z\$280,000	5	Z\$532,000	6
Soap & Vaseline	Z\$395,200	14	Z\$430,000	8	Z\$552,000	6
Grinding	Z\$120,000	4	Z\$160,000	3	Z\$200,000	2
Beer & Entertainment	Z\$0	0	Z\$100,000	2	Z\$280,000	3
Other Social	Z\$0	0	Z\$60,000	1	Z\$12,000	0
Total	Z\$2,908,100	100	Z\$5,148,150	100	Z\$8,614,500	100



The presence of boarding schools in the area has seen a very big percentage of the expenditure of the better-off going to education because they can afford to send their children to such schools. The middle and better-off also explained that they get a lot of assistance on education from remittances in kind, for example their working children pay school fees directly to the school or buy uniforms for their siblings.

Agricultural inputs are an expense for the middle and better-off groups but again there was discontent especially from the AREX officers and other good farmers that the inputs they could afford to buy were not adequate for maximum production from their fields. In both Chirumanzu and Gutu the farmers indicated that it was very difficult to have a good crop without the use of fertilizer since their soils have been overused. Some poor and middle farmers use mulch from tree leaves in an effort to improve the quality of their soils but this requires implements such as scotch carts to carry the mulch from the bush and this means hiring a cart, which they cannot afford most of the time. This has been viewed to contribute towards deforestation and is being discouraged. Better-off farmers use cattle manure from their kraals to improve the quality of their soils.

MASVINGO DISTRICT

Wealth Breakdown

Community leaders in Masvingo district divided the community into three wealth groups. The local names although different from the other FEZs because of dialect, still have the same meaning (The poor, middle and better-off). The poor make 50% of the community while the middle are 35% and 15% respectively.

The table below shows a lot of difference in livestock holdings of wealth groups in Masvingo district from that of the other districts discussed before. The district is very dry but good for

livestock and game ranching. The poor in Masvingo also own cattle unlike the poor of the other FEZs discussed before. However, the key informants in Masvingo reported that poor rains, because of the excessive heat experienced in the area, easily affect their area. Water sources dry up fast during the dry seasons such that it is difficult to have gardening throughout the year except if it is under irrigation.

Figure 13: Masvingo wealth breakdown

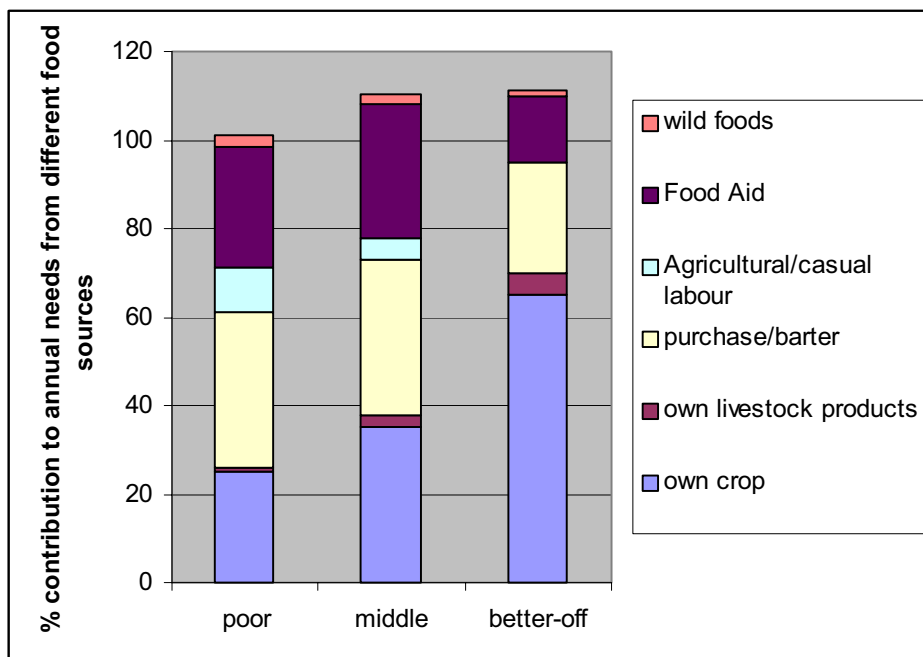
Wealth groups: Local names	“Vanotambura”	“Varipakati”	“Vanazvo”
Wealth group name (English)	Poor	Middle	Better off
% Households in each wealth group (proportional piling)	50%(45-55%)	35% (30-40%)	15%(10-20%)
Cattle	0-3	4-5	6+
Goats	0-4	5-9	10+
Donkeys	0-1	2-3	4+
Productive Household assets	Hand hoes	Plough, wheel barrow	Scotch cart, cultivator, wheel barrow, harrow, plough
Land cultivated	0-0.5ha	0.5ha – 1ha	1ha+
Schooling levels attained by children	‘O’ Level	‘O’ level,	Tertiary level.

Sources of Food during the reference year

All wealth groups managed to meet their annual food needs in part because of the contribution of food aid in the reference year. All groups had failed to meet their annual food needs by their own means but one could argue that if there was no aid probably the middle and better-off could have managed to cover the deficit by selling livestock and then purchasing grain on the market. However that was not possible because the previous year (2002) was a bad year and there was not adequate grain supplies in the market (according to key informants)

Figure 14: Masvingo sources of food

Source of Food	% Annual food Requirements		
	Poor	Middle	Better-off
Own crop	25	35	65
Own livestock products	1	3	5
Purchase/barter	35	35	25
Agricultural/casual labour	10	5	0
Food Aid	27.5	30	15
Wild foods	2.5	2.5	1
Total	101	110.5	111



The contribution made by crop production in Masvingo was relatively lower in all wealth groups if compared to the other FEZs. Purchasing therefore was very important for all wealth groups since agricultural labour that was available was paid more in cash than in food, unlike other districts. The district has a lot of wild foods that include the mopani tree caterpillar, nuts from marula seed, and a range of fruits and these provide protein and other vitamins in the diet. The mopani caterpillar is harvested and dried, stored and is consumed well after the two months period it is in season.

Sources of income

All wealth groups undertook a variety of ways of earning income⁵. The assessed wards are near the sugar estates where people go for casual employment and are paid in cash. Cross migration and boarder trading was also reported to be high due to the area's proximity to Mozambique and South Africa. Livestock selling was an important way of earning income since livestock holding is relatively high for most households. Due to the high numbers of livestock in Masvingo district the prices of livestock were lower than in the other districts for example the going rate for a goat was reported to be at \$Z 180,000 – 300,000 while it was between \$400,000 and \$500,000 in other districts⁶. Other sources of income included the sale of garden produce, remittances from children and relatives who have migrated to the neighbouring countries and sale of wild foods such as the mopani caterpillar.

⁵ Due to information gaps in quantitative data (due primarily to the inexperience of the assessment officers and short training period) for income and expenditure for Masvingo district, only qualitative information was used in the analysis of income sources and expenditure patterns. An attempt to fill this gap in the baseline information will be made over the coming year.

⁶ This is equal to 8-13 US\$ in Masvingo as compared to 17-22 \$US in other districts at the time of the assessment using the parallel market exchange rate at the time of writing.

On expenditure, foodstuffs took much of the income from the households, followed by education and non-food household items such as soap, Vaseline, fuel and matches.

WATER AND SANITATION

Communities largely depend on boreholes and deep wells fitted with hand pumps for provision of safe water for home use. These water points are also used for watering small livestock like goats and in some cases irrigating small kitchen gardens close to the water points. A community-based maintenance System supported by DDF⁷ is in place in Zvishavane and Chirumanzu districts to maintain the water points. Because of the prevailing conditions, there are many hand pumps that are broken down and are not being maintained especially in some wards in Gutu and Masvingo districts. Dams and shallow wells provide water for agricultural production and watering livestock.

Since communities indicated that broken down boreholes were not being repaired due to lack of money, pressure on the functioning boreholes was mounting and this also led to the breaking down of more boreholes as communities then moved to the next functioning boreholes. The DDF, which is poorly equipped and under-resourced in terms of human resources, indicated that it was not receiving enough funding to properly carry out its duties, which involve repairing of broken down boreholes and developing new water points. One of the districts received annual funding that only allowed for the drilling of one borehole for the whole district in the year. Dams that were visited in all the four districts had never been de-silted for a long time and the amount of water stored in the dams was decreasing every year due to silting. Further, some of the dams had developed cracks and eroded overflows and therefore losing water. In one of the wards in Zvishavane district there were four dams but only one was being used because the other two had very dangerous cracks, while one was reported to have silted. Further, also due to poor funding, the existing personnel (pump minders) were overloaded with work since three people were doing work that required eight. On the other hand, in Zvishavane and Chirumanzu district where Oxfam and implementing partners revived Community Based Management System, Pump mechanics were not fully equipped with tools in Chirumanzu⁸. The DDF indicated that some major spare parts that communities can not afford, such as brass cylinders and bush pipes, were difficult to get to enable repairs of broken down pumps.

In two of the wards that were visited during the assessment in Zvishavane District, there were a total of 16 boreholes, 8 of which had broken down and had not been repaired due to lack of funds to buy spares, while in the other ward 14 of the 36 boreholes had also broken down and had not been repaired due to lack of funds to pay the pump mechanics as well as poor or long chain of communication from water point caretakers through village leaders to councillors up to the RDC, where spare parts are kept, and then back to the villages. Pump spare parts were handed over to the RDCs at the end of the Public Health programme and a visit to the stores indicated that there were still enough spares for simple pump maintenance. Other observations include:

⁷ District Development Fund

⁸ This is despite the fact that most of the tools were left with the RDC by Oxfam at the close of the project.

- Distances to the nearest safe drinking water sources in some of the wards visited were too far⁹ in comparison to accepted standards even when such sources are operational.
- Access to water for agricultural production and watering livestock was not assured throughout the year due to poor maintenance of dams (silting but also eroded overflows as highlighted above) and wells but also due to improper assessment of capacity of such sources and best methods/technology of extracting water to put the water to the use it is intended.
- In all the districts only water from the boreholes was reported to be safe for drinking since the other sources were open and were also used for watering livestock. Some communities preferred having wells close to them improved so that they could use them for drinking, agricultural production at household level and for watering livestock.

Sanitation is still very low in all the four districts since 60% of the households have no access to toilets. The low coverage of toilets is attributed to the destruction of toilets in 2000 by the hurricane/floods and humanitarian and economic crisis that followed thereafter.

IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS ON LIVELIHOODS

Qualitative information from the interviews held with wealth groups and key informants at both district and community level indicated that HIV/AIDS undermined households and communities. HIV/AIDS has a severe impact on food security, affecting all of its dimensions - availability, stability, access, and utilization. The epidemic is taking back years of slowly earned progress in rural development, while it is causing significant increases in rural poverty.

The current assessment has shown that the impact of HIV/AIDS on households has resulted in less involvement of the affected households in activities that improve their access to food and income and also distorted their expenditure patterns since they could no longer afford some commodities they previously managed to access.

The following case study tries to show case how HIV/AIDS impacts on the life of a young schoolgirl and her household:

Chipo (not her real name) is a fifteen-year-old girl doing form 2 at a secondary school in rural Zvishavane. When the interviewer visited Chipo's homestead, she was busy preparing some food for the household on an open fire in her mother's mud and thatch-roofed kitchen. The mother who was not feeling well (has not been well since 2003) and some of Chipo's siblings sat around the fire waiting for the food that Chipo was preparing. Chipo's mother, who was the principal interviewee, narrated how the household had been surviving since 2002 when her husband passed away and when she started to be sick on and off. The household had lost all of its livestock holding over the four-year period due to selling in order to meet household needs such as health, food and school fees. Chipo's household over the years has been very good agriculturally, managing to produce enough food crops to take the household to the next harvest, since there was enough draught power, income for the purchase of seed and other agricultural inputs and enough labour (paid for labour with excess grain). Gardening was a very important source of food and income for the household at that time with the mother and children providing the labour.

However this is now history in Chipo's household where daily survival is a struggle. According to Chipo's mother the loss of draught power due to the sale of their animals has put the household at the mercy of relatives and other neighbours who sometimes volunteer to plough for the family. During the previous season, an uncle

⁹ In Chirumanzu District the average distance to nearest safe water source was between 1.5 to 2 kilometres

(maternal) ploughed about half an acre around the homestead well after most people had done their ploughing because he was attending to his own fields. The other fields, which are some distance from the homestead, therefore were left fallow. Planting and weeding were very difficult for the household since some of the two children were still too young to provide labour. This, together with the poor rains meant they only realised a harvest that would provide the household with food for two months' consumption. The garden, which is now mainly manned by Chipo and Obert, (17 year old brother) has been reduced to produce vegetables only for household consumption, with none left over to sell.

Chipo's mother indicated that she now heavily depends on two of her older children who now have their own families (one married girl and oldest son) for the provision of staple food (maize grain). Bethany Trust (a local NGO) pays school fees for Chipo and Obert. The other two primary school children just go to school. "They come back home for some days when the school requires school fees but they go back again and the school just accepts them" was a comment from Chipo's mother.

Chipo's mother narrated her ordeal in accessing health services. "I need drugs every month since I am always sick these days. However I need money to board a bus to go to Mabasa (local clinic) since I cannot walk all the way (>5 km) and there are no drugs at the clinic. Therefore I only depend on painkillers from the local shops." During the interview Chipo's grandmother (maternal) arrived with an aunt to check on Chipo's mother since she had not been very well recently. They brought with them some groundnuts. The interviewer caught up with Chipo's uncle who narrated a story about Chipo that the household had not shared. According to Chipo's uncle, Chipo was out of school for two years since she had run away from home. "I only discovered her along the Runde River where a lot of gold panning activities are taking place." "Paari ipo paya anotoziva varume" (At her age she already has been involved in sexual activities with men). I brought her back home and talked with the headmaster of the nearby secondary school so that they could take her in, which they gratefully did. The uncle explained that Chipo had run away from home due to the hardships the family was facing and also because there was no one around who could monitor her movements since the mother was always sick.

The following were some of the reasons why HIV and AIDS affected households' livelihoods in all the visited districts had changed for the worse:

1. Stigmatisations – affects access to basic services and social fabric/networks, e.g., being able to access draught power from neighbours.
2. Labour – loss of productive adults which affects capacity to engage in coping mechanisms such as gold panning and the main livelihood activity of farming.
3. Use of child labour – loss of parents/caretakers leading to children engaging in gold panning and girls being sent to work as maids.
4. Loss of productive time while looking after the sick and attending funerals. (the latter affects whole villages since in some areas it is culturally inappropriate to work in the fields during and 1 to 2 days after a funeral. "The type of rainfall pattern we experienced in the last few years does not allow for such rests for if you miss the moisture in the soil by one or two days it makes a lot of impact on the final yield".
5. Asset disposal in order to get income to take care of the sick is reducing crop production since productive assets such as ploughs and wheel barrows are also sold.
6. Increased number of orphans and child-headed families put pressure on already vulnerable households, e.g. school fees, food and clothing.
7. Loss of knowledge and skills of activities that help the household's access to food and income and also coping mechanisms to be employed when certain shocks manifest, due to HIV/AIDS deaths of people with the skills and knowledge.
8. Affects on the decision-making capacity of the household especially if a child heads the household. The assessment realized that children had to consult adults whether relatives or just neighbours when they wanted to sell livestock to take care of some of the household needs such as school fees, food, etc.

Access to formal health care

Both of the wards visited in Zvishavane did not have clinics, therefore the people reported that they walked between 5 and 10 km to the nearest clinic in the neighbouring wards. This affects people infected with HIV/AIDS since they need to visit the clinics for all opportunistic infections. According to a community monitoring and evaluation officer in Shavahuru ward (Zvishavane district), the death rate for HIV/AIDS cases is high in the poor wealth group because of poor nutrition and poor access to health facilities since people in this group cannot afford the transport and health costs.

THE CURRENT SITUATION - MAY 2005 – APRIL 2006

The problem specification for the coming 12 months will be presented jointly for the four districts with further differences highlighted by district.

Crop Production

Issues that affected crop production for the 2004/5 season in all the four districts assessed include:

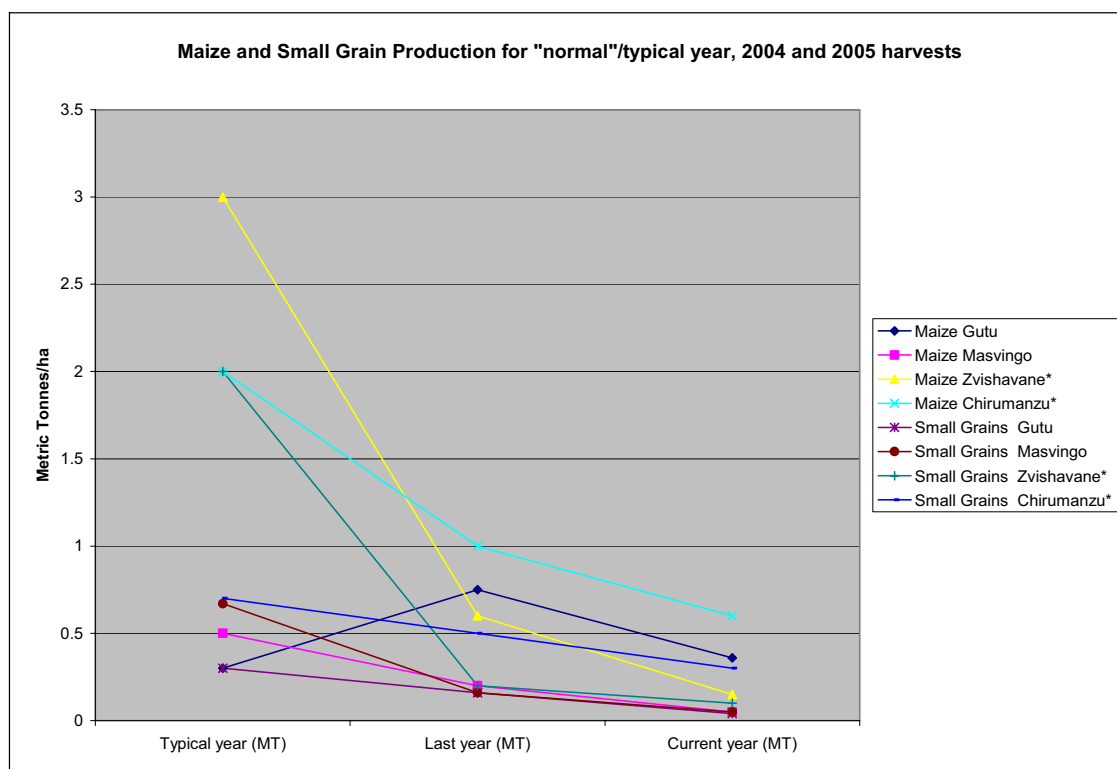
- Drought
- Inadequate inputs at the beginning of the season
- Lack of seeds in the markets
- Inadequate draught power at the onset of rainfall and after

Analysis from the primary and secondary data clearly show a great drop in crop yields with Zvishavane and Masvingo districts harvesting only 20% - 25%, Chirumanzu and Gutu 25% - 30% of their normal grain production. During wealth group interviews respondents indicated that the effect of the drought was almost uniform across the wealth groups with small variations. The poor could not replant after the first crop failure because they did not have adequate resources to do that. In Zvishavane part of the crop that was replanted in January survived but the yield was relatively poor.

Figure 15: Graph showing AREX crop production data

The graph below clearly shows a downward trend from normal in the production of maize and small grains in all the districts except for maize production in Gutu District where there was a rise in 2004 and a slight increase in 2005 for maize¹⁰.

¹⁰ The district figures on crop production for Zvishavane also include commercial and resettlement areas while that for Gutu and Masvingo is for communal areas only



In all the districts, the average grain production for the 2004/5 harvest for the poor wealth group ranged from 0-50kg, the middle 0-150kgs and the better-off 0–500kg. The range for all the wealth groups was starting from zero because some farmers across the wealth groups did not harvest anything, depending on the quality of their soil (heavy soils stood the drought better than light soils). This means that most of the poor will have no grain by the end of June, the middle group by August and the better off by the end of September. Further, food crop sales will not be possible for all wealth groups that used to earn income from this source.

Gardening

The drought will affect gardening this coming year because of water drying up earlier than normal. According to the existing data, 60% of the gardens across the districts will produce vegetables up to August this year. In some of the wards members of the community gardens had cut down the number of beds each member could water by almost half for them to be able to get production from the gardens up to August. That is a cut from 5 months production to 3 months (40% reduction). Water for livestock has to be reserved so gardening will have to be stopped if the water situation continues to worsen. This will have effects largely on the household's income and food since vegetables were used not only for cash but bartered for grain by households in the poor and middle wealth group categories.

Agricultural/casual labour and bartering

The drop in crop production will affect the poor and middle wealth groups who normally supplement the grain from own production with activities such as agricultural/casual labour and bartering. The consensus from the interviews was that there would not be any food from

these sources this year since the better-off farmers were affected and neighbouring districts were equally affected by the drought.

Livestock production this year

Livestock production has also been affected. The impact includes:

- Inadequate grazing area and poor quality of grasses
- Inadequate water, livestock will be driven for long distances (up to 15km in some areas) for watering.
- Stock deaths from diseases (e.g., red water coccidiosis, black leg, foot and mouth, fowl pox).
- Stock thefts – In Gutu district, key informants reported that for a household to sell livestock, they must have written authorization from the local leaders/government in order to minimize stock theft.

In addition, there are several factors affecting cattle dipping services, which also curtail livestock production. These are:

- Services are not reliable due to a shortage of chemicals (except in Chirumanzu district where services were still functioning well although not well distributed for easy access by all farmers)
- Apathy of community to fill dips with water, which is likely to be affected by the drought due to, increased distances to get water for dipping purposes.
- Distances to and from dip tanks are too far for most households
- Dipping fees have increased in cost to 5,000 Z\$ per animal from Z\$200-600 last year.

These conditions will affect the general well being of livestock such that livestock births are likely to go down, sales will go up and the prices are predicted to drop drastically because of increased livestock on the market. The best scenario could be livestock remaining at their current prices that is \$3 million Zimbabwean dollars for cattle, \$300,000-500,000 for goats and \$35,000-50,000 for chickens. However the most likely scenario is a significant drop in prices as the health condition of livestock also goes down and the supply exceeds market demand¹¹.

Grain Availability

Due to poor crop production, marketing of grain by farmers will be very minimal or non-existent. Therefore all wealth groups will be expecting to buy grain from the GMB. The District authorities indicated that their GMB depots did not have any stocks at the time of the assessment since there was no grain in their districts. However, Masvingo district indicated small supplies of maize trickling in from South Africa through the GMB depot to be shared with other provinces. It was interesting to note that all districts were referring to Gokwe district as the supplier of the grain they had been selling recently and in one of the districts grain from South Africa was being sold. Actual figures of grain supply could not be shared with the assessment teams, as the information was considered politically sensitive and not readily shared. However from the interviews held with community key informants and wealth groups, GMB grain sales were noted to have been erratic and very small in the previous months. It was further reported that 2 or 3 households had to share a 50kg bag and

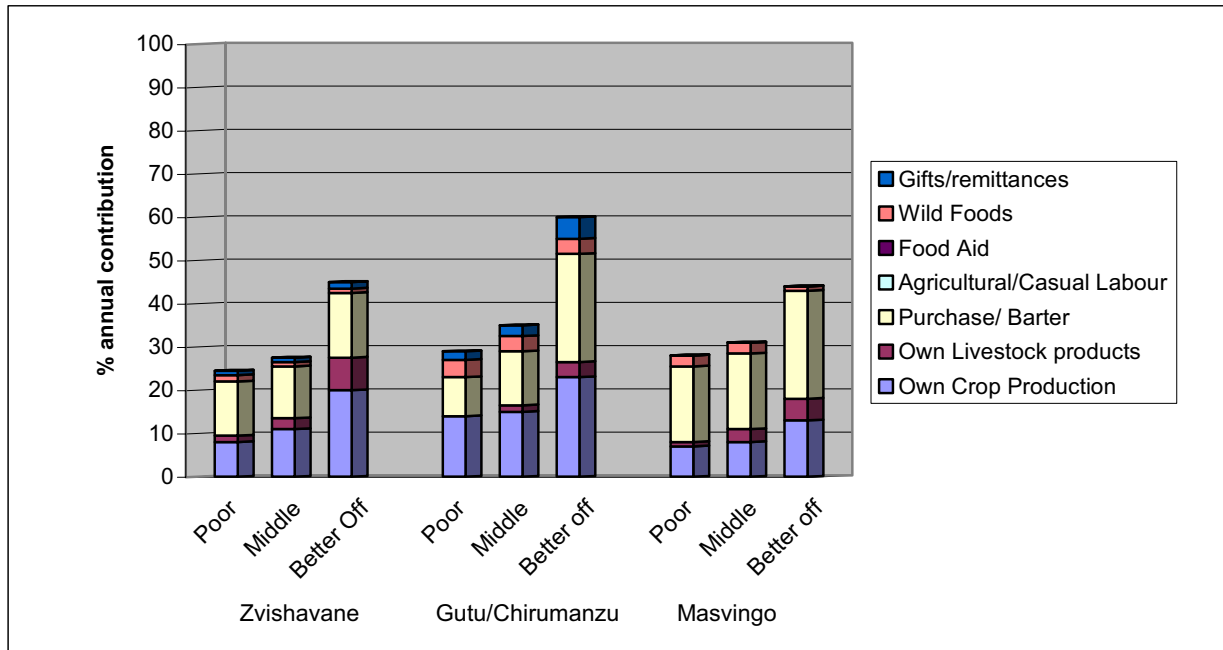
¹¹ That is, 130, 17 and 2 US\$ for cows, goats and chickens respectively, at the parallel exchange rate.

wait for 3 or more months to get another chance to purchase maize from the GMB. Therefore grain supplies into the districts are likely to be very inadequate if no assistance to import grain is provided to the GMB.

Food Sources

As highlighted before, a combination of drought and availability and/or access to agricultural inputs at the onset of rains affected the following sources of foods: crop production, agricultural/casual labour and purchase/barter. After between 70% – 80% of the contribution to annual food requirements was removed from the reference year graphs (agricultural labour contribution was totally removed, 50% of purchase/barter contribution was cut and food aid percentage was totally removed), the initial picture for the annual food requirement graphs (before coping was factored in) for the three wealth groups in the different FEZs were as presented in the graphs below:

Figure 16: Initial annual food deficit for all FEZs after the shock



The poor wealth group needs to cover between 70% - 75% of their minimum annual food requirements and the middle and better-off wealth groups need 65% - 70% and 40% – 55% respectively for them to realise 100% of their minimum annual food requirements this coming year. However, it is critical to note that a large percentage of food will come from purchase/barter, which will be greatly affected if there is no grain in the market.

Sources of income affected by the shock

All sources of income linked to crop production will be affected. As discussed before, no income will come from the sale of food crops since none of the wealth groups across the districts had surplus that they could sell. Garden produce will be affected by 40% due to

inadequate water. Beer brewing will be reduced due to the poor production of small grains that are the main ingredient.

Coping Capacity

During the community key informant and wealth group interviews, respondents were asked how they were going to cope to lessen the effects of the shock. It was interesting to note that the initial reaction was a picture of helplessness. However with focused probing, the respondents started to identify some activities that they realized they could expand on, though all activities that had something to do with crop production and gardening were indicated as not expandable. These activities are:

- Livestock sales are going to be intensified for the middle and better-off wealth groups.
- Production and sale of craft products are going to be intensified.
- Agricultural and casual labour activities that are paid in cash will be expanded.
- In Zvishavane gold panning is going to be intensified.
- Expansion of petty trading.
- In Masvingo, short-term migration to neighbouring countries is likely to take place.

Other coping strategies

- Cutting down meals from 3 to 1 per day.
- Reduce the quantity of food to be consumed during meal times.
- Diet change – the middle and better-off groups will change their non-staple food basket and buy less preferred foods, which are less expensive.
- The expenditure pattern will change e.g. not buying assets and clothes and taking some children out of school or cutting down on health costs.
- Sell assets such as wheel barrows and ploughs
- Selling sex for food or money (Prostitution)
- Stock theft either for consumption or to sell

Cost of Coping

- There was fear that due to the general shortage of draught power in the areas, sale of livestock if it went on uncontrolled would further worsen the situation and eventually affect the coming season's crop production. Disposal of livestock will further affect future capacity of households to cope in the event of shock.
- Gold panning has been described elsewhere in this report as a negative income earning activity and if increased will further affect the households, community at large and the environment.
- Petty trading has been made redundant by the new operation by the Zimbabwe Republic Police "Operation Murambatsvina" (Restore Order) that has seen the destruction of the informal sector.
- Selling of productive assets is a distress coping strategy that will affect livelihoods in the long term.

CONCLUSIONS

The food security situation of most communities in Zimbabwe over the past five years has been affected by successive years of drought and a drastically worsening economic situation

exacerbated by HIV/AIDS. Efforts to redress the situation have been compromised by the same reasons. The drought has affected not only crop production but also other sources of food and income as well as human, animal and agricultural water needs and the general food security situation of the communities in the assessed districts. This is going to pose a threat to the communities' general livelihoods. Successive years of poor crop production coupled with the effects of HIV and AIDS have left all wealth groups with limited capacity to cope since each bad year leaves them poorer than before.

It is also crucial to note that HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe is another emergency that the country has been facing for the past two decades. Therefore food insecurity, as an emergency within another emergency, makes the situation much more complex and therefore requires a multi-faceted response. It is clear that people living with HIV/AIDS are more prone to suffer from disease and death as a consequence of limited access to food, water and good hygiene than are people with functioning immune systems. In emergency situations, the AIDS epidemic presents an added risk and burden to the communities and households, as it builds upon and exacerbates existing vulnerability and impairs prospects of recovery.

The evolving food security crisis will also likely lead to the further spread of HIV/AIDS. The greatest threat is among girls and women, in part because of the practice of transactional sex as a coping strategy but also because they are at risk of forced sexual relationships either through dependency or through increased exposure when forced to walk long distances to look for food and water. Finally, children, especially older girls, are vulnerable to sexual abuse when they are left at home by parents away searching for food or alternative sources of income.

The availability of grain/staple food products will be a critical factor. Although there is a gap in information concerning the capacity of the GMB to provide adequate grain supplies this year, most assessments of the general economic condition of the country clearly show that the parastatal is not likely to be able to import the estimated 1.2 million MT¹² grain deficit. Without grain on the market, none of the coping strategies will work for all wealth groups since they are largely income based. The shortage and prohibitive prices of alternative foods (rice, sugar, and flour) on the market will make it very difficult for all the wealth groups to meet the minimum annual food requirements for the coming year, forcing many to use harmful coping strategies and compromise their long term food security. Further, even small food deficits will lead to a quicker progression to AIDS by those HIV infected as nutritional status and general health declines. If there is wide unavailability of food for a large percentage of the population, acute malnutrition in children and adults and increased morbidity and mortality is a very real possibility.

Crop production in the next agricultural season will be compromised by the current food security situation since people will prioritise purchasing of food over other household needs such as agricultural inputs and paying for agricultural labour. This is likely to lead to the cultivation of smaller areas and increased vulnerability in the future. It is projected that the majority of the households will consume the little seeds stored if no other food sources surface.

¹² ZimVAC presentation , SADC/UN Stakeholders Meeting, Johannesburg, July 7th, 2005.

Since crop production and other sources of income have been affected, social services and public health requirements like CBM-maintenance of water points, construction of sanitation facilities and keeping a clean environment and personal hygiene are being compromised and gains in the Public Health sector may be eroded as long as food insecurity continues and communities' livelihood is threatened.

Inadequate water and poor grazing will greatly affect the condition of livestock. Draught power for the coming season will be affected if no programmes to improve the health condition of livestock are undertaken.

Communities are aware of the importance of proper sanitation but have prioritised other needs over sanitation simply because of the country's economic hardship. With the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, good sanitation in conjunction with a nearby clean water source is important to i) reduce common opportunistic diseases like diarrhoea, ii) to minimize contamination of water sources due to open defecation, iii) to reduce burden and time requirements of carers, in maintaining personal hygiene of especially the chronically sick; and iv) to maintain dignity of especially the elderly and the chronically ill and also to protect girls and young women who are vulnerable to abuse if they must walk long distances to fetch water.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As indicated in the conclusions, a complex emergency has resulted due to the overall food crisis and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, therefore there is need for a multi-sectoral approach to respond to it. It is important that emergency response activities give specific attention to the impact of HIV/AIDS on households and communities. The approach should be to help create the conditions in which both infected and non-infected individuals can live with dignity and security. Meeting the immediate food and other basic needs of poor households is essential. Halting risky sexual and social behaviours, including, for example, the trading of sexual favours for food, goods and services, is crucial to this goal. Food aid programmes in the past have been described as very helpful as they prevented severe food shortages, preserved assets, kept children in schools and prevented migration out of the affected areas.

The assessment came up with remedial, medium and long-term recommendations to improve the food security situation of the people in the next 12 months and improve their general livelihoods.

Remedial Activities

Food aid

Food aid needs to be provided for the poor wealth group in all the districts as from July 2005 and from August and October for the middle and better-off wealth groups respectively before people start employing distress coping mechanisms. A ration that provides 75% of the daily food requirements should be considered in order to allow households to continue with some of their livelihood activities or employ coping strategies to cover the 25% gap. Other methods like food vouchers (used in the past by Oxfam GB) would be preferred over food aid if there is food in the markets, but this seems highly unlikely. The table below presents the

district population figures for the target population for each period. The population figures used here are projections from the 2002 census.

Figure 17: Table showing food aid calculations

District	Population	July 2005 (50% of popn)	August 2005 (80% of popn)	October 2005 (All people)
		Targeted number for each period		
Zvishavane	+/- 106,526	+/- 53,263	+/- 85,221	+/- 106,526
Chirumanzu	+/- 72,791	+/- 36,396	+/- 58,233	+/- 72,791
Gutu	+/- 206,992	+/- 103,496	+/- 165,594	+/- 206,992
Masvingo	+/- 201,691	+/- 100,846	+/- 161,352	+/- 201,691
Total	+/- 588,000	+/- 294,001	+/- 470,400	+/- 588,000
		Maize grain/meal = 2940 MT	Maize grain/meal = 4704MT	Maize grain/meal = 5880 MT
		Pulses = 588 MT	Pulses = 815 MT	Pulses = 1176 MT
		Vegetable Oil 102 MT	Vegetable Oil = 163 MT*	Vegetable oil = 204 MT**
Total tonnage for the period	Maize grain/meal = 53508 MT Pulses = 10450 MT Vegetable Oil = 1856 MT			

* Same tonnage for September

** Same tonnage for seven months

Issues that have to be considered under this kind of intervention include:

- Source of food
- Food suspected of being genetically modified must be ground
- Targeting – a need to ensure most vulnerable, notably HIV/AIDS affected, are not excluded.
- Effects of food aid in kind on local and regional markets
- New staff training needs (HIV/AIDS in the work place, sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian operations, targeting, HIV/AIDS and gender mainstreaming)
- Programme monitoring

Food for Work/cash

Food for work should be considered against free food distributions as it has an element of development of the community. However issues that also should be considered for that kind of intervention are:

- Availability of appropriate community projects
- Administration and monitoring of the projects
- Inputs for projects
- What about labour poor households?
- Food for work rations

- Food availability in the market if cash for work is to be implemented
- Cash for work value (how much cash for how much work done?)

Monitoring of the Food Security Situation

Monthly monitoring of the food security situation should take the form of monitoring of the market to determine availability and accessibility of staple food and other basic food commodities such as cooking oil and sugar. The pricing of livestock should be monitored on a monthly basis to establish the prices and quantities sold. This monitoring will enable early warning of uncontrolled destocking that would compromise future livelihoods and would indicate an alarming escalation of the severity of food insecurity.

The Gender, HIV and AIDS programme should take the lead in monitoring the implications of HIV/AIDS on livelihoods and also analyse the effect of the disease on rural social security systems, assets and other resources needed to sustain rural livelihoods, demographic patterns, gender dynamics and other social and economic processes.

Medium to long term Interventions

Other interventions to improve the general livelihoods of the communities in the medium and long term are presented in the table below:

Figure 18: Table showing possible medium and longer term interventions

Intervention	Issues	Target
Marketing programmes for garden produce (fresh and dried)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transport ▪ Training ▪ Expertise in drying vegetables and packaging ▪ Market analysis required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community garden members ▪ Irrigation scheme members
Educational assistance programme (School fees, uniform and other educational costs). School fees account for a large percentage of annual expenditure, therefore money meant for education will go to other household costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Availability of food (grain) ▪ Targeting ▪ Sustainability ▪ Stigma ▪ Manipulation by school authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Most vulnerable children and 50% should be girls
Restocking – to improve on draught power availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pastures or feed lots ▪ Food supplements during lean periods ▪ Shelter construction ▪ Expertise is required ▪ Disease outbreaks and control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poor and Middle wealth group households
Agricultural Inputs (Could use the food for work concept where people will have to work for the inputs e.g. labor provision to labor deficient households)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impact next year ▪ People will not afford seed and other inputs this year 	All wealth groups

Intervention	Issues	Target
like those affected by HIV/AIDS e.t.c)		
Water: boreholes for household use as well as other sources like hand dug wells and technologies that will promote use of less labour and financial operational input and use for both human consumption and agricultural production – rehabilitation of old sources and new ones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cost of investing in marginal areas ▪ Long term programme ▪ Expensive programme 	All wards
Support of the “Zunde Ramambo” (Chief’s Field concept) and “Nhimbe” (community work groups) through provision of agricultural inputs and food to be consumed during “nhimbe”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Constant monitoring ▪ Training for appropriate use of agricultural inputs ▪ Training on community management 	Labour poor households
Home-Based Care Programmes (HBC) for households with people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of the households ▪ Cost of HBC kits ▪ Sustainability ▪ Training of carers and community members ▪ Identification of working groups that already exist and investing in them 	Households with PLWHA
Youth Income Generating Programmes (A lot of children were reported to be dropping out of school especially in Zishavane and Chirumanzu districts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of projects ▪ Start up capital ▪ Expertise ▪ Training 	Out of School Youth
Sanitation at individual homesteads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targeting ▪ Coverage for impact realisation ▪ Awareness creation ▪ Could be run as a food/cash for work intervention 	Households without toilets

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