Famine Early Warning Systems Network

Food security projections through May 2022

Nov 19, 2021

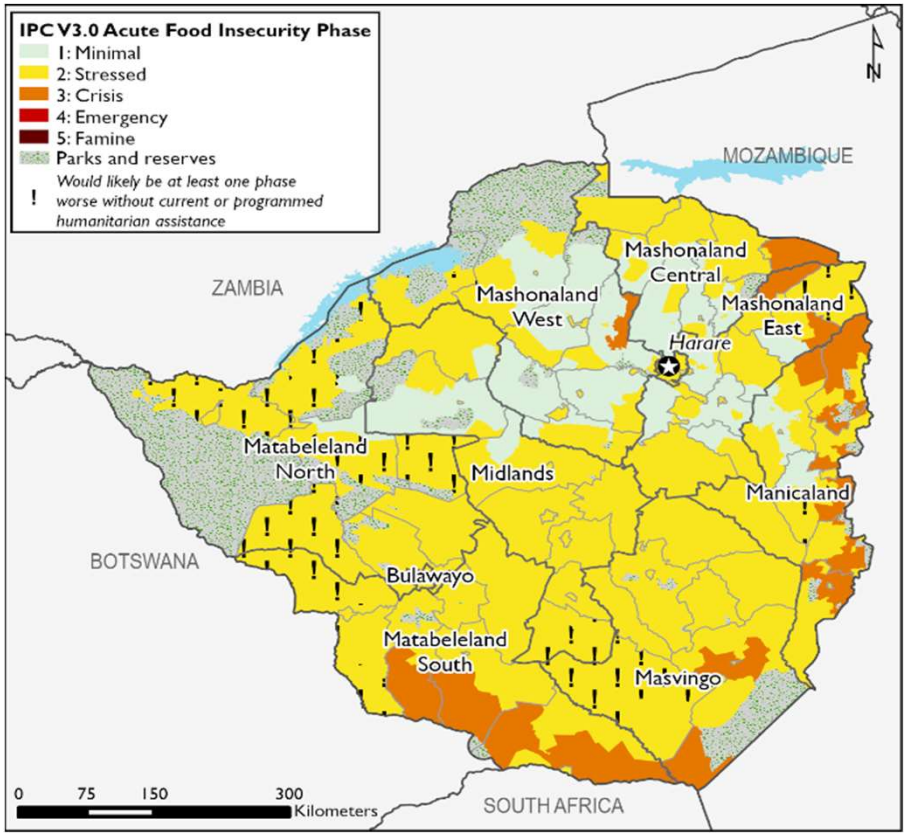
Most recent update:

FEWS NET Zimbabwe Food Security Outlook
Oct 2021 to May 2022

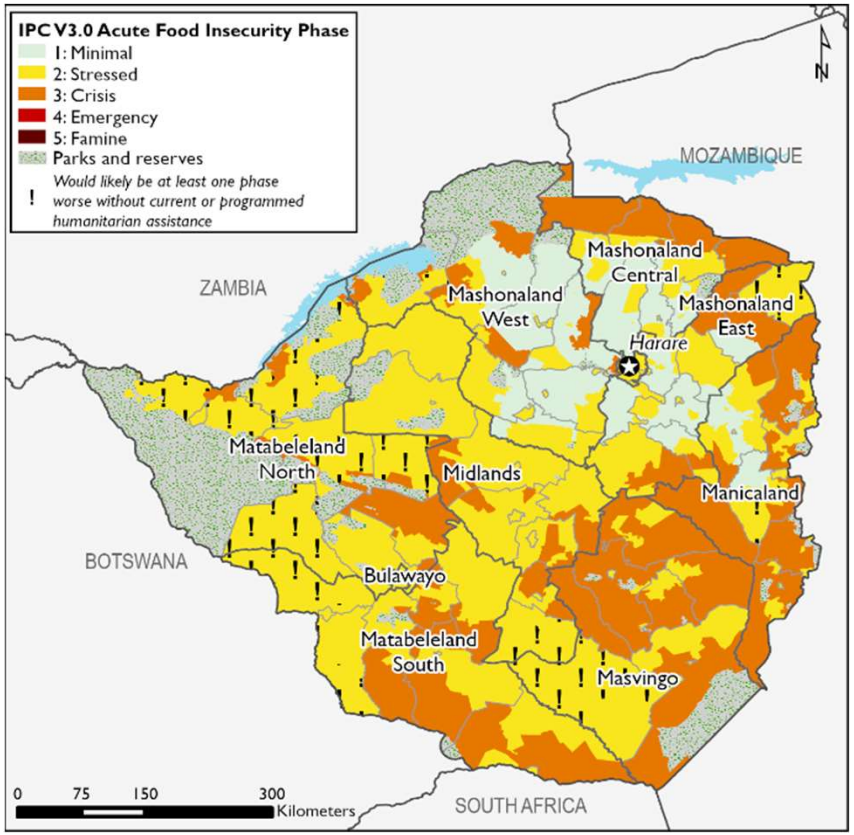
https://fews.net/southern-africa/zimbabwe/food-security-outlook/october-2021

Projected food security outcomes

Oct 2021- Jan 2022

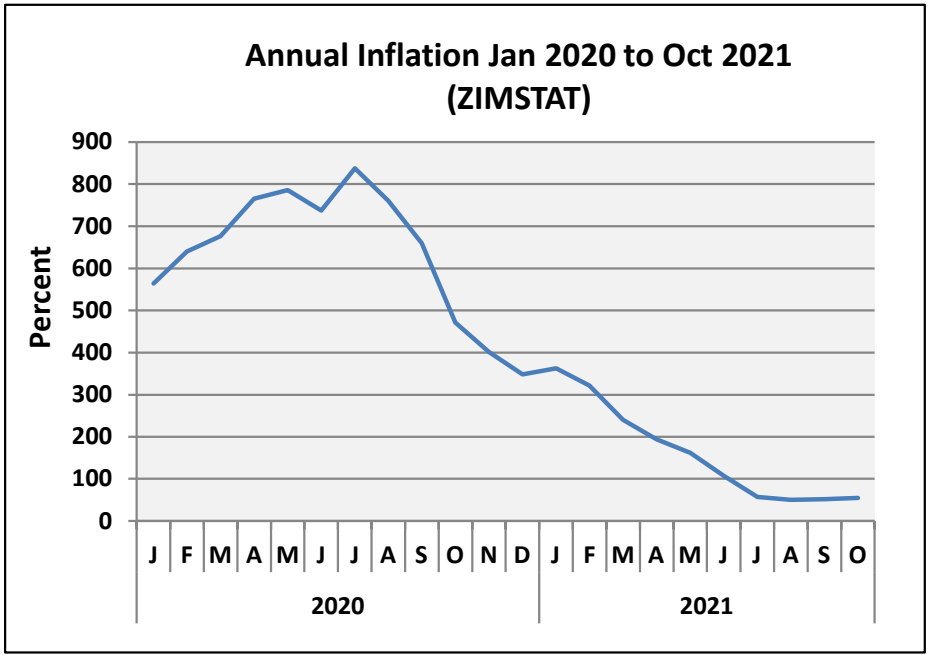


Feb-May 2022



Macro-economic assumptions informing projections through May 2022

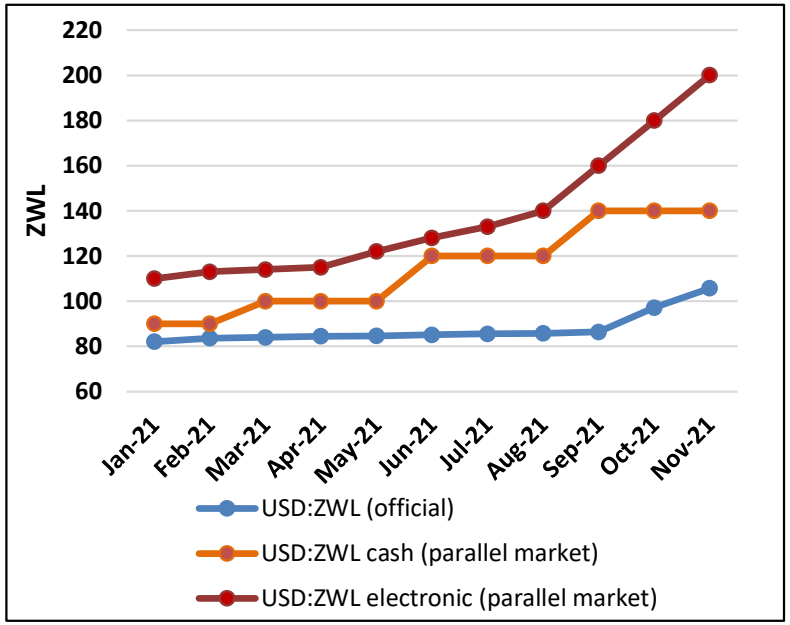
- Inflationary pressures expected to remain
- Parallel market exchange rates expected to continue driving most pricing trends on the market
- Erosion of incomes to continue as ZWL continues to depreciate on the official and parallel markets
- Cost of living expected to continue increasing



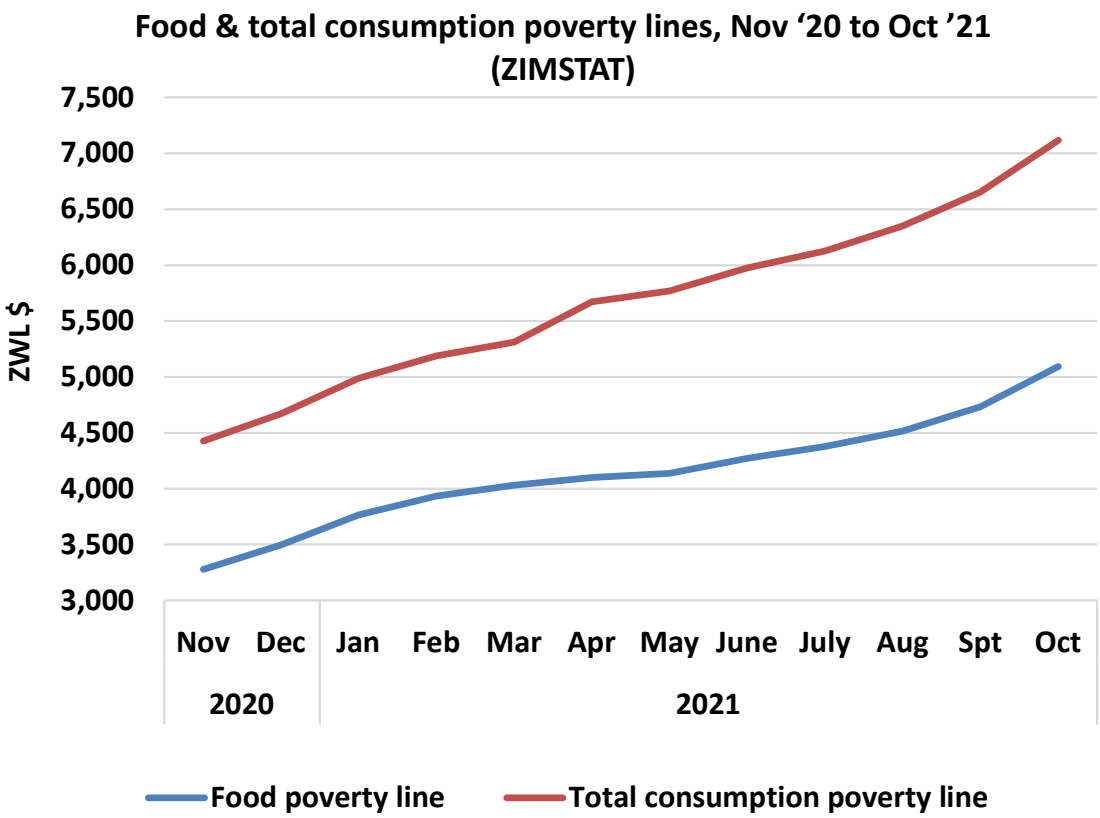
Parallel market exchange rates mainly driving high price increases

- Most businesses applying parallel market rates for ZWL despite government directive
- Spiking USD parallel market rates between 70-90% above the official auction rate
- Recently official auction rates experiencing notable increases – e.g. about 6% in Week 3 of November. Since end of Sept, official rate increased by over 20%
- Non-cash payments in ZWL (mobile money and electronic) are 40%+ above ZWL cash prices – eroding disposable incomes.

USD : ZWL (official)	105.7
USD : ZWL cash	140+
USD : ZWL mobile	160+
USD : ZWL transfer	180+
ZWL cash : ZWL mobile	1.4 (e.g. 100:140)



Cost of living expected to continue rising



- Most formal & informal sectors, & social security incomes expected to remain below the poverty lines
- Poor household access to food on the markets very constrained

Market assumptions informing projections through May 2022

- Above normal national maize supply expected to ensure national cereal self-sufficiency. No imports expected

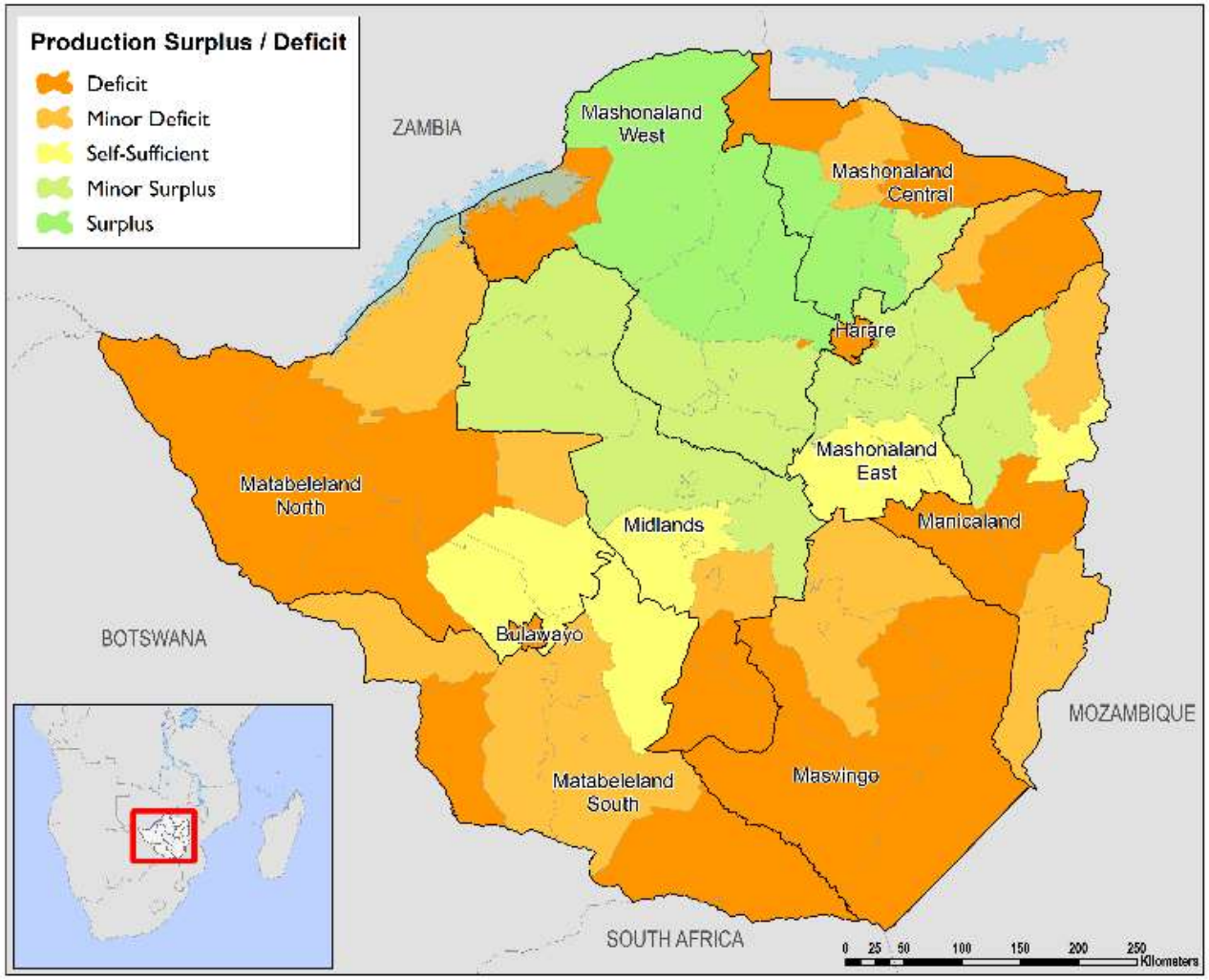
- The GMB (and contractors) likely to remain main buyers of maize on the market

- Grain supplies on open markets expected to remain lower than normal in both surplus- and deficit-producing areas

- Maize prices in deficit areas expected between 50-100% higher than in surplus areas. ZWL prices above average.

- Maize meal expected to be readily available, unlike over the last few years. Yet ZWL prices expected to be above average

Typical surplus and deficit maize-producing areas



Livelihood assumptions informing projections through May 2022

- Own-produced food stocks in most surplus areas to last through March
- Own-produced household stocks depleted in most deficit-producing areas and market reliance on staple cereal to increase through March
- Near-normal casual labor availability expected especially in surplus-producing areas due to anticipated favourable seasonal rainfall
- Below normal remittances (frequency and amounts)
- Easing of COVID-19 lockdown to improve households incomes; however land border closure to non-essential goods and services to continue negatively impacting related livelihoods

Livelihood assumptions informing projections through May 2022 (cont)

- Increasing water availability and access challenges, esp. in semi-arid areas through November. Improvements anticipated in line with above normal rainfall forecasts

- Deteriorating pasture and livestock conditions in semi-arid areas through November. Improvements thereafter

- Incomes from livestock sales expected at below normal levels (partly due to below normal disposable incomes, high livestock diseases, poor access to veterinary drugs)

- Humanitarian food assistance anticipated at below normal levels (both targeted areas & beneficiaries) starting Oct through the peak lean season in early 2022

- Acute malnutrition is expected to remain at *Acceptable* levels in most areas throughout the outlook period. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) <5 percent as measured by Weight-for-Height- Z-score (WHZ) according to WHO thresholds

Agroclimatology assumptions informing projections through May 2022

- Above normal rainfall across all regions of the country for the 2021-22 agricultural season; above average cropped areas anticipated

- Poor crop input access for a majority of small holder farmers due to below normal income and high prices. Govt expected to be a main source of crop inputs

- Flooding, waterlogging, soil leaching expected in parts of the country; may reduce potential yields

- Above average green harvests (Feb-Mar) and crop production/harvests (from April) anticipated for 2021-22 cropping season

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