

# Food Security and Livelihood Cluster Zimbabwe

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**Location:** Online via Microsoft Teams at 11:00–12:00

**Meeting Presentation:** [link](#)

### Agenda

1. Opening remarks
2. Minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Meteorological Services Department Season Update
4. Agritex Seasonal Update
5. Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) update on the ZimVAC processes
6. Food Deficient Mitigation Strategy Update and plans
7. FAO/FEWS NET/WFP Seasonal Update.
8. ICA presentation –WFP/NUST
9. KickStart International presentation
10. Partners' Update
11. Meeting Closure.

**Participants** 78 registered, 28 organisations represented

### List of organisations:

ACF, ActionAid, ADRA, CAFOD, Chemonics, CRS, DCA, FAO, FEWS NET, Help from Germany, ICRISAT, IFCR, Kickstart, LGDA, MEDRA, Mercy Corps, NAZ, NUST, Oxfam, Plan-international, Red Cross Zimbabwe, Save the children, UNDP, UNHCR, USAID, Welthungerhilfe, WFP, WVI

### Discussion

#### **1. Notes and comments on the previous Minutes of Meeting**

Feedback on the previous minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Minutes approved without further amendments.

#### **2. Meteorological Services Department Season Updates**

MSD presentation on the observed rainfall in the 2021/2022 rainfall season as well as the 10-day outlook.

MSD Presentation [link](#).

### 3. Agritex Seasonal Update

- The 2021/2022 season started late in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> dekad of December 2021.
- Where it started early, (last week of October to mid- November 2021), it was a false start and rainfall distribution was poor in both space and time across the country.
- Incessant rains in January (which caused excessive leaching of nitrogen and other crop nutrient) followed by prolonged dry spell in the first week of February to end of March,
- The false start resulted in failed crop establishment leading to replanting.
- The late onset caused late plantings later affected by prolonged dry spell at critical stage causing write offs especially in the central and southern parts of the country.
- Unusually heavy late rains have been received in April across the country.
- The positive/ Negative impact of these rains has not been evaluated but should generally result in a lower deficit for most crops

Agritex [presentation](#)

Questions/Comments:

Plan-International: What sort of harvest are we expecting given the reported myriad of problems including germination failure. Are we going to be above 50% in terms of the yields?

Agritex: 50% or slightly above decrease in annual cereal production is not so far off from what we are expecting. The assessment for rotting has not been done. Have tasked officers on the ground to assess how much of post-harvest loss will occur given the current prevailing conditions.

IFRC: Given these early indications, we are of the view that for us to have responsive response and timely, there is need for consolidation and sharing of data. What has been prevailing from last season is that there has not been an IPC and ZimVAC which are some of the sources of data to show severity. At the same, given the closing window of most funding opportunities and that many countries are recovering from COVID-19 and the current crisis in Ukraine, what can we do as a cluster to get those relevant process as there will be a need to strengthen our case for funding for the increasing food insecurity in the region?

A: Within the UN, there has been concerns around how we can have an assessment and importantly preposition ourselves to the various funding streams. The big questions are the comparison between this year's harvest and the last year and this year and the past five years

average which is critical in terms of making a case. We have all noted the deterioration but have been unable to quantify it. With the imminence of the second crop assessment report, we may be able to quantify and making our cases a bit more concrete. From in-house knowledge, Agritex crop assessment report is scheduled to be tabled to the cabinet early following week and will be shared as soon as it is accepted by the cabinet.

Regarding quantifying how many people are targeted or vulnerable or may need to be targeted, the current plan/timing of the ZimVAC is as follows:

<b>Training</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Supervisor training	6 <sup>th</sup> May
Enumerator training	9 <sup>th</sup> May
Data collection	12 <sup>th</sup> May

An IPC would also be done following ZimVAC, but this will have to be confirmed by Food and Nutrition Council (FNC).

FEWSNET: Are there any prospect for post-harvest assessments after the second-round crop assessment?

A: Yes, there is a plan to conduct post-harvest assessment subject to funding which would enable extension officers collect the data The timeline has not been confirmed yet thought.

Comment: Save the children have some funds to support ZimVAC.

#### **4. Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) update on the ZimVAC processes**

Sent apologies

#### **5. Food Deficient Mitigation Strategy Update and plans**

Sent apologies

#### **6. FAO/FEWS NET/WFP Seasonal Update.**

Key highlights:

- Market condition – Availability & Prices
- Macro-economic Situation
- Livelihoods update
- Food consumption & Coping
- Food security outcomes

Joint FAO/FEWNET/WFP [Presentation](#)

#### **7. Integrated Context analysis (ICA) June 2021**

- 3-Pronged Approach (3PA) - for partnered resilience building efforts in the country championed by WFP and other organizations and NUST is part of the agencies
- Based on principles of historical trend analyses across several technical and sectorial disciplines.
- two core factors: trends of food insecurity and main natural shocks (droughts and floods)
- Trend analysis aids understanding of what has happened (food insecurity, shocks, land degradation are constantly and predictably occurring), what has changed.
- useful in identifying areas where further in-depth studies are needed and priority areas for the SLP
- inform strategic programmatic decision-making in specific geographical areas (resilience building, disaster risk reduction and social protection actions)

#### [ICA Presentation](#)

Questions/Comments:

Looking at the maps, in terms of food security on the maps, if you observe keenly, in 2014, we had most of our central region which is the central food basket in the low food insecurity, but now that area is shrinking in 2021 and that shows that something is happening, and we therefore need to do take actions to support the region. This raises a concern.

#### **8. KickStart International presentation**

Kickstart international aims to empower smallholder farmers from poverty to prosperity in one season using Kickstart's own irrigation technology.

Mission is to promote and distribute irrigation tools that enable smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) to achieve food and income security quickly, cost effectively and sustainably.

#### [Kickstart International presentation](#)

Questions/Comments:

Plan-International: Linking the two presentations (Kickstart and ICA) there are common elements which have been highlighted in terms of water harvesting and utilizations. If we focus in geographic areas to develop our water resources, we should be self-sufficient in terms of food security. However, we have attention spread in different sectors that we ignore the most important sector – the stomach.

NUST: One challenge I have seen with the pumps generally is the issue of long-term sustainability of the system. Water could be there, but the infrastructure breaks down and this is a challenge to water availability. What is your long-term strategy?

A: Each pump comes with a guarantee of one year and if they fail, they will be replaced. It also comes with spares for two years. With \$80, a farmer is guaranteed up to 5 years of service. We

have seen cases where pumps last for 15 years with only part replacements. Farmers are also trained on how to maintain the machines.

## **9. Updates from Partners**

Nothing reported

## **10. AOB**

Nothing reported

END