

# Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster Zimbabwe

## Meeting Minutes

**Date: 23 September 2022**

**Venue: Online - Microsoft Teams – 10:00am – 11:30am**

### Agenda

1. 2022/23 Seasonal forecast
2. Response plan for the 2022/23 consumption year under the FMDP

### Opening remarks

Meeting started with opening remarks welcoming the members to the meeting, with apologies for the delay in convening the meeting. The agenda was outlined with two major issues for discussion (1) 2022/23 seasonal forecast (2) response plan for the 2022/23 consumption year under the Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy.

### Discussion

- 1) The Meteorological Services Department (MSD) outlined the seasonal forecast for the upcoming agricultural season as follows: OND will have normal to below normal rainfall in meteorological regions 1 and 2, while in region 3, normal to above normal rainfall is expected. For the period NDJ, normal to above normal rainfall is expected in all three meteorological regions. For the period DJF, the surplus producing areas of the country are expected to have normal to above normal rainfall while the non-surplus producing areas of the country are expected to have above normal rainfall. The same pattern is expected for JFM period.

### Questions/Comments

- Clarification and emphasis was on the fact that mid-season dry spells should still be expected despite the good rainfall prediction
- Is it possible to predict when the season shall cease? – Unfortunately not at the moment.
- It is unusual to have three consecutive La Nina years. 2022/23 is the third consecutive La Nina year.
- Cyclone forecasts will be made once the season starts, but La Nina years are also characterised by an increased frequency of cyclones

- 2) The Department of Social Development outlined National Response Plan for the 2022/23 consumption period under the Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy. The plan outlines the distribution of districts under the Government and those under WFP. The number of people to be targeted is 3.8 million people as informed by the 2022 ZIMVAC analysis. 100% of the affected people will be targeted. The ZIMVAC analysis also highlighted the that the worst affected provinces in term of food insecurity levels are Matabeleland North (58%), Masvingo (41%) and Matabeleland South (36%). The joint programme will target all the sixty (60) rural districts, Government will have fifty two (52) districts and WFP eight (8) from October 2022 up to the peak hunger period. As such, during the October-December 2022 distribution period, Government will distribute grain to 2,411,504 beneficiaries and 559,328 people will receive assistance from WFP. Between January-March 2023, the number of food insecure people covered by the Government will 3,066,463 whilst WFP will have a caseload of 702,227. Summaries per district are as follows:

#### Government Caseload

PROVINCE	October- December 2022	January-March 2023
Manicaland	358,004	481,232
Mash Central	222,302	286,760
Mash East	237,443	312,162
Mash West	388,145	500,835
Masvingo	339,550	447,338
Mat North	318,926	371,422
Mat South	166,690	202,108
Midlands	398,435	492,977
<b>National</b>	<b>2,429,495</b>	<b>3,094,834</b>

#### WFP caseload

District	Oct to Dec 2022	Jan to March 2022
Buhera	144,055	179,515
Hwedza	39,980	46,056
Mudzi	56,450	72,064
Bikita	63,658	79,755
Chivi	63,609	89,053
Nkayi	63,195	74,953
Mangwe	37,304	43,869
Mt Darwin	91,077	116,962
<b>Total</b>	<b>559,328</b>	<b>702,227</b>

#### Questions/Comments

- For the Food for Assets (FFA), what will government give communities? – grain
- The 60 districts targeted are rural. What will then happen with the urban food insecure population in this consumption year? – Targeting of the urban food insecure population is based on the last

urban VAC from 2021; Government is targeting the urban population through Harmonised Cash Transfer (HCT) program and various social protection interventions.

- With each of the 3.8 million people expected to receive 10kg of grain every month, how is the government looking into supply chain issues in light of the global crisis? – There is already enough to start off the program; Government will use other strategies including importation to ensure the pipeline is adequate.
- If there are other organisations able to assist, how can they come on board? – They can write to the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Public Service, Labour & Social Welfare; they can indicate in a concept note how much they have, which districts they are interested in and propose modality. The Department of Social Development will then co-ordinate and allocate a caseload.

**Other issues:**

- Request was made to invite Agritex to the next meeting to understand better the seasonal preparedness from a production side following the MSD forecast.
- MSD will be requested to provide regular seasonal updates as it progresses
- DSD will be requested to also share the progress of the response in future meetings

No other issues raised. The meeting was closed at this point.

END//