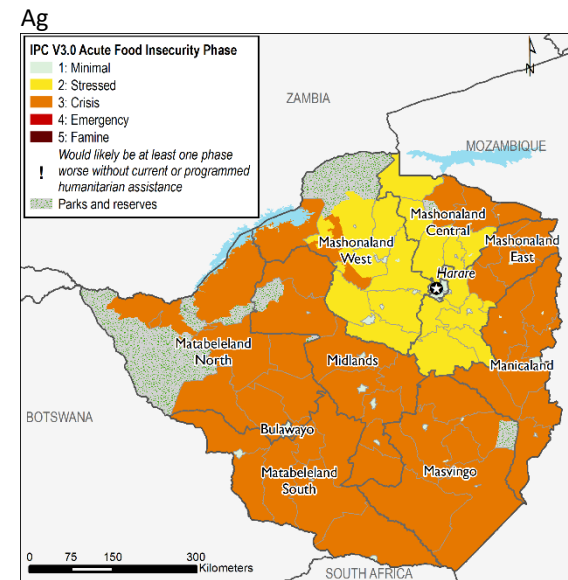


*Poor harvest and deteriorating macroeconomy driving atypically high food assistance needs*

**KEY MESSAGES**

- The deteriorating macroeconomy and significantly below average 2018/19 crop production are expected to drive widespread Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes through at least January 2020. In high production northern areas and some central parts of the country Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes are expected through August, after which Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected. Some worst-affected households are likely to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes in districts of highest concern: Kariba, Binga, Hwange, Gokwe North, Mbire, Mudzi, and Chipinge districts from October through February, the peak of the lean season.
- The long-standing economic challenges are expected to continue driving poor and highly volatile macroeconomic conditions. Some basic commodities like bread, sugar and cooking oil are likely to continue in short supply. Fuel shortages and increasing fuel prices are also contributing to the economic hardships faced by both rural and urban populations as household incomes and purchasing power rapidly erode.
- The Ministry of Agriculture currently estimates maize production for the 2018/19 season to be about 776,600 MT, 45 percent of last season and 59 percent of the five-year average. Early international forecast indicate, near average rainfall is likely for the start of the 2019/20 season. Despite this forecast, agriculture labor opportunities are likely to be below average. In addition, access to agriculture inputs is anticipated to be limited.

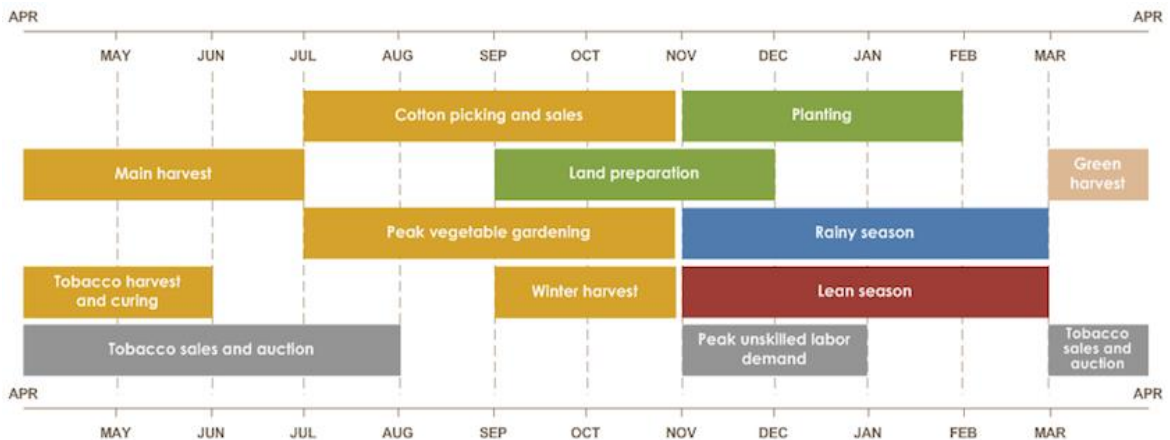
Current food security outcomes, May-June 2019



Source: FEWS NET

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners.

**SEASONAL CALENDAR FOR A TYPICAL YEAR**



Source: FEWS NET

## NATIONAL OVERVIEW

### Current Situation

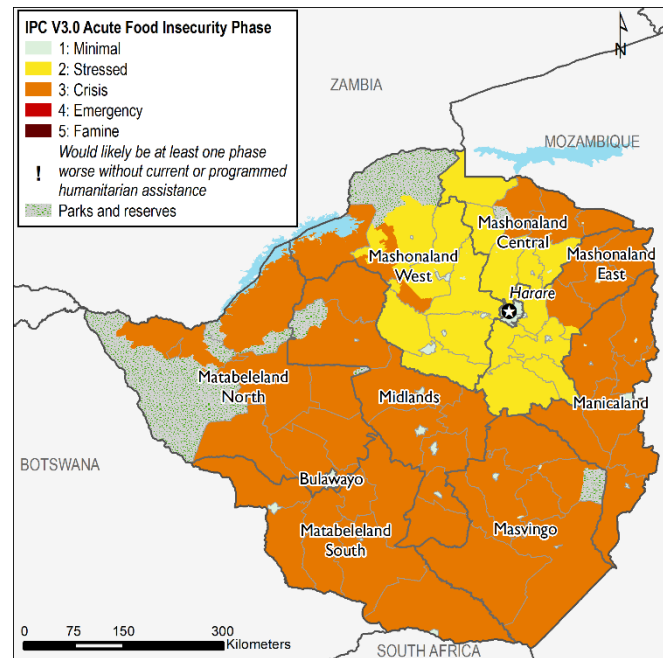
The 2018/19 rainfall season was among the worst on record in parts of the country characterized by significantly below average rainfall with drought conditions across much of the country. Compared to the El Nino 2015/16 rainfall season, this season had more widespread rainfall deficits, especially in the north and west (Figure 1). In 2019, Tropical Cyclone Idai brought late season rainfall to the eastern parts of the country, mainly Chimanimani and Chipinge Districts, though this rainfall led to severe flooding, destroyed crops and infrastructure and disrupted livelihoods.

The 2018/19 harvest is complete in most areas of the country, although continuing in a few areas. According to the Ministry of Agriculture’s (MoA) annual production report, maize yields for the 2018/19 season in communal farming areas are very low, averaging 0.27 metric ton/hectare (MT/ha); 50 percent below last year’s average yield level and almost 40 percent below the five-year average. In some of the worst affected areas, many households did not have a harvest.

According to the latest government crop assessment, 2018/19 maize production is estimated at about 776,600 MT, 45 percent of last season and 59 percent of the five-year average (Figure 2). Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, and Manicaland Provinces are the worst affected with maize production averaging only about 30 percent of the five-year average. National sorghum and pearl millet production is estimated at 75,000 MT, also significantly below average. The total cereal production is estimated at roughly 850,000 MT. In May, the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) held about 590,000 MT of maize including 500,000 MT held by the Strategic Grain Reserves, indicating below average national carry-over stocks from the 2017/18 marketing season. The official national cereal deficit for the 2019/20 consumption and marketing season is currently estimated at 760,000 MT.

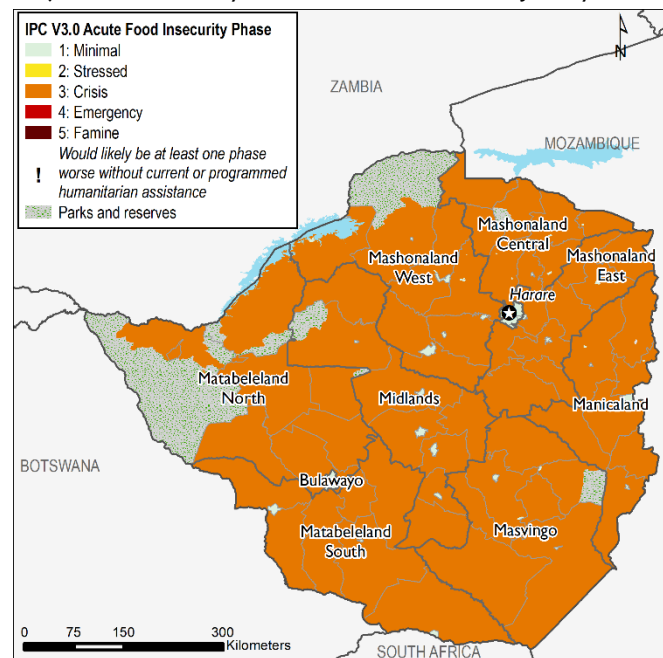
Production for all other crops (e.g. legumes, pulses, and tubers) and cash crops (mainly tobacco and cotton) are also expected at significantly below average levels. Tobacco deliveries to auction and contract floors have been significantly below normal, so far this marketing season, though this is also partly due to poor prices. Cotton harvests have been delayed in most areas due to late planting. MoA estimates cotton production is most likely to be 50 percent less than last year at roughly 68,000 MT.

Projected food security outcomes, June-September 2019



Source: FEWS NET

Projected food security outcomes, October 2019 – January 2020



Source: FEWS NET

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners.

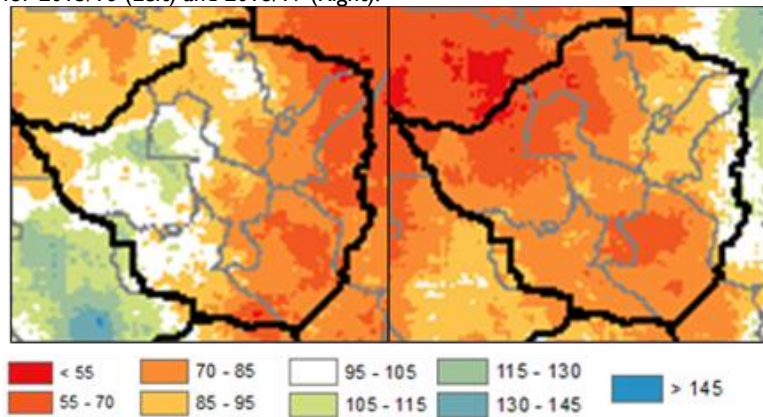
The Zimbabwe macroeconomy remains highly volatile and continues to deteriorate. According to the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT), the annual inflation rate reached nearly 100 percent in May; the highest in 10 years and an increase from about 75 percent in April (Figure 3). However, some independent estimates indicate the annual inflation rate is over 300 percent. The main driver of the economic challenges is the foreign currency shortage. In mid-June, Zimbabwe’s local currency (RTGS \$) devalued by 140 percent against the USD on the official interbank market, compared to late-February, when the interbank market rate was established at US\$1: RTGS \$2.5. Parallel market exchange rates also spiked by over 150 percent by mid-June, trading at an average of US\$1: RTGS \$10 to \$11. The RTGS \$ continued to devalue on an almost daily basis through the third week of June (Figure 4).

In late-June, Zimbabwe’s central bank banned the use of foreign currencies, re-introducing the Zimbabwe Dollar (comprising of bond notes and RTGS Dollars (RTGS \$) as the sole legal tender for transactions in the country. In the days following the announcement, food and nonfood prices continued to increase; however, market impacts are not well understood at this point as the market needs time to adjust and respond to the new supply and demand structure.

Following long-standing fuel shortages in mid-May the government removed subsidies on oil companies, leading to a nearly 50 percent increase in fuel prices. By mid-June, petrol and diesel prices further increased by 6 and 4 percent, respectively. These increases came 4 months after the substantial 150 percent fuel price hikes in January which triggered widespread national protests. As a result of these increases, petrol and diesel prices are now 280 percent above December 2018. Private transporters increased transport fares up to 100 percent between May and June in response and fuel shortages also continue.

The continued devaluation of the local currency, increasing fuel prices, as well as the deteriorating and volatile macroeconomy, has drove increases in food and non-food price beyond the already above-normal price levels. Cooking oil and sugar prices increased by over 100 percent between

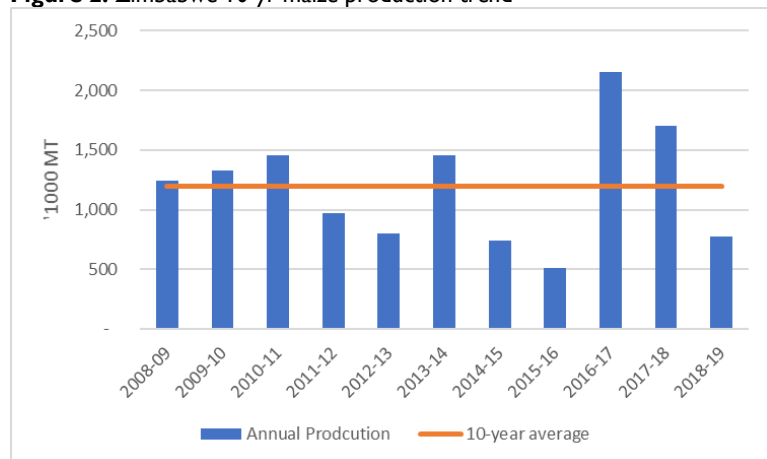
**Figure 1.** Rainfall according to CHIRPS data from the October to May period for 2015/16 (Left) and 2018/19 (Right).



\*Late season rainfall during the 2015/16 season decreased rainfall deficits, but did not have much of an effect on cropping conditions. In 2018/19, there was little to no late season rainfall.

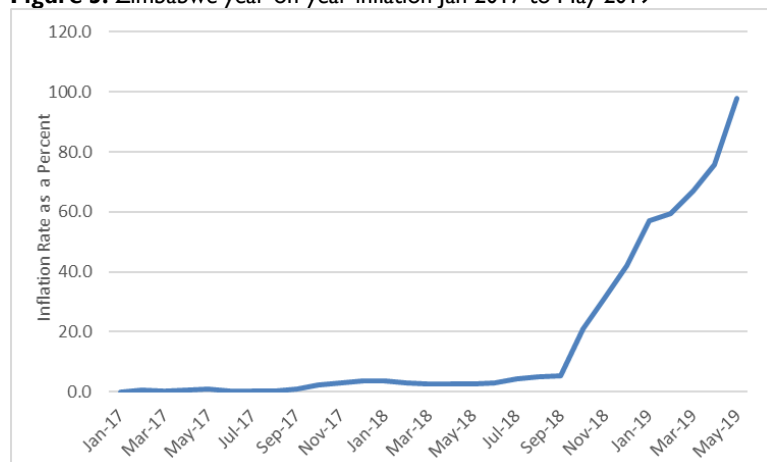
Source: USGS/EROS

**Figure 2.** Zimbabwe 10-yr maize production trend



Source: Ministry of Land, Agriculture, Water Climate and Rural Resettlement

**Figure 3.** Zimbabwe year-on-year inflation Jan 2017 to May 2019



Source: ZIMSTAT

May and June. Some food commodities recorded over 150 percent price increases during the same period. Some basic foods including cooking oil, sugar, and bread are not consistently available in markets across the country. This is partly due to foreign currency shortages for imports. Maize grain availability is limited in markets across the country due to the poor harvest. Also, despite the recent maize harvest, maize grain prices continued to atypically increase from May to June.

In mid-June, the government introduced new maize producer prices, only 2 months after the previous producer price increase. Prices increased 93 percent per MT of maize grain from RTGS \$726 to RTGS \$1,400. Despite government subsidies to commercial maize millers on purchases from the GMB, millers have significantly increased maize meal prices and there are intentions for further price increases.

Critical electricity outages across the country are also adding to the economic challenges as electricity is rationed. This is affecting businesses inclusive of industries and commercial sectors.

Prior to the government’s announcement to ban foreign currency on June 24, most goods and services were quoted in scarce US Dollars, or alternatively in local currency at extremely high prices pegged above the official and parallel market rates. These high speculative prices in the local currency are meant to cushion businesses who access foreign currency on both the official and black markets where the local currency is rapidly depreciating. Subsequently, prices of most basic foods are well beyond what many poor households can afford, when available.

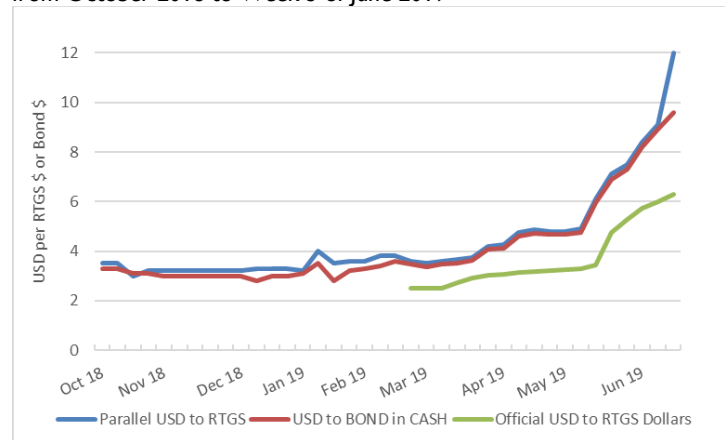
Formally employed workers in both the government and private sectors were previously calling to be paid in US Dollars; which most employers could not afford. The population engaged in the informal sector continues to grow. These households engage in petty trade and self-employment activities among other activities. However, increased competition and low demand for products and services are resulting in below average incomes.

As cash shortages continue, there is an increase in the use of mobile money transfers for payments. The high and increasing service charges imposed by retailers, traders, and service providers is further eroding household purchasing power. In some cases, poor households are resorting to bartering for food.

Following the poor rainfall season, water availability and access is also decreased, especially in typical semiarid parts of the country. Most streams, ponds, and other water sources have already dried up, as well as some boreholes, as water tables are fast receding. Pastures are generally good in some localized areas especially in typical high rainfall areas, but fair to very poor in arid parts. Cattle are in fair to poor condition in the most severely affected areas of the country although small stock such as goats are in good to fair condition. However, there is a high prevalence of livestock diseases and many households are unable to afford veterinary drugs and supplementary feeding. From the start of the year through April, the government reported 5,000 drought-related cattle deaths countrywide. Atypical livestock sales including sale of livestock in poor condition for income have already started in some parts of the country. Mobile money transfers are the common payment modality for livestock with selling households paying high premiums to access the cash through dealers or when making payments for goods and services. This has significantly reduced the income earned from livestock sales.

Income sources for this time of year from crop and livestock sales are below normal. Poor water availability and access, especially in the southern and other arid areas of the country are impacting activities such as self-employment and vegetable production and sales. Increasing macroeconomic hardships and volatility continue to affect casual labor, remittances and petty trade activities, among others. Most households are reliant on markets atypically early, increasing demand, specifically for maize grain. Poor households, most of whom either did not harvest anything or have exhausted own-produced stocks, are facing increasing challenges accessing food on the markets due to below average income and atypically high food prices.

**Figure 4.** Weekly Exchange Rates of USD to RTGS \$ and Bond Notes from October 2018 to Week 3 of June 2019



Source: ZIMSTAT



Agricultural and non-agricultural labor availability is also low and decreasing as middle and better-off households who ordinarily offer such opportunities are also experiencing the effects of the economic challenges and poor crop harvests. Labor rates, including in-kind payments are below average and significantly below average in some areas for poor households.

Many poor households are employing consumption based coping strategies including reducing the number of meals consumed a day, reducing portion sizes, and engaging in preferential feeding of children before adults. In addition, in areas with little to no harvest households are atypically selling livestock, purchasing food on credit or borrowing money to buy food.

Current data on humanitarian food assistance distribution, including the number of beneficiaries and the ration size was not available. As such, this analysis does not include the impacts of humanitarian food assistance.

Overall, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food security outcomes are prevailing across most areas as a result of poor production, the challenging macroeconomic environment, and constrained livelihoods. A few areas in typically high production areas are experiencing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes as access to production is broadly meeting their basic food needs, despite being below average.

### *Assumptions*

The June 2019 to January 2020 most likely scenario is based on the following national-level assumptions:

- Estimates indicate significantly above-average national cereal deficit during the 2019/20 consumption and marketing year. Government has already indicated plans to import up to 700,000 MT of maize to fill the national shortfall; however, foreign currency shortages will likely limit imports by both the government and private sectors.
- National market supply is expected to be significantly below average with markets in deficit-producing areas mainly in southern, western and other typical deficit areas expected to be undersupplied with grain for much of the marketing season.
- In surplus-producing areas in the north poor households are anticipated to consume own produced foods for 3 to 4 months; however, in the rest of the country, poor households are anticipated to consume own foods for only 1 to 2 months.
- Macroeconomic conditions are anticipated to further deteriorate and remain highly volatile through January 2020. Full implications of the ban on use of foreign currency in domestic transactions along with re-introduction of the Zimbabwe Dollar as the sole legal tender are yet to be realized. Though parallel market exchange rates dropped immediately following the ban on foreign currency usage, parallel market exchange rates are still expected to increase with time. As a result, some basic food commodity shortages are likely to continue as well as atypically high rate of price increases in basic food and nonfood commodities. Fuel shortages and high transport costs are likely to continue. National power cuts are likely to remain, negatively affecting industry and household livelihoods.
- Most areas of the country are expected to have below average water availability from June through November, especially in typically semi-arid areas. This will affect water supplies for domestic and livelihood activities such as livestock care, dry season gardening activities, brick molding, construction, and self-employment activities.
- Poor water and pasture conditions especially in typical semi-arid areas are likely to result in livestock movements to areas with better pasture and water sources with cattle conditions anticipated to be fair to poor. Small livestock are expected to be in good to fair condition but deteriorating in areas of highest concern. Livestock disease prevalence is expected to remain high, especially considering the high prices and shortages of livestock drugs and supplementary feeds. Atypically high livestock deaths and distress selling of livestock are anticipated through January 2020. However, demand for livestock is expected to be low.
- Income from agricultural and non-agricultural labor is expected to be significantly below average as a result of the above average labor supply, decreasing wage rates, and the below average labor availability, especially in southern and other typical grain-deficit areas. Also, in-kind payments for labor and income from the sale of goods in the market and petty trade is most likely to be below average.

- Remittances from within and outside the country, especially from South Africa, are expected to be below average as below normal opportunities are likely due to the deteriorating macroeconomy and will affect the frequency and quantity of the remittance suppliers.
- Maize grain and maize meal prices are anticipated to continue to be significantly above average due to low supply, high demand, and the volatile economy. High and increasing transport costs and transport challenges are anticipated to further increase prices, especially in remote markets. As cash challenges continue amidst eroding household incomes and purchasing power, bartering for maize grain and meal as well as other basic commodities is expected to increase. Poor households are likely to barter chicken or goats in exchange for food. In addition, increased transport costs may result in maize grain and maize meal shortages in some remote markets.
- The most likely ENSO phase from now through January 2020 is for a weak El Niño, near-average conditions are most likely across Southern Africa for the onset period and first half of the 2019/20 rainy season.
- Despite anticipated average rains between October and December, agriculture labor demand and rates for the 2019/20 agricultural season are expected to be below average due to the anticipated below average payment from middle and better-off households and access to agriculture inputs.
- Poor household access to agricultural inputs for the 2019/20 agriculture season is likely to be significantly below average, reducing areas planted. The government has indicated commitment towards crop input assistance for the upcoming season; however, owing to fiscal challenges, assistance coverage is expected to be below normal.

### *Most Likely Food Security Outcomes*

The food security conditions across the country are likely to deteriorate throughout the scenario period with more households anticipated to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes. In the June to September period, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes are likely to persist in surplus producing areas of the country as households are expected to consume own foods through August. This year due to the limited harvest and deteriorating and volatile macroeconomic situation, households are likely to atypically rely on purchases from the markets earlier than normal, though at increasing food prices. The coping strategies households are most likely to engage in during this period include limiting meal frequency and quantity, increased consumption of wild foods, extended sale of livestock, labor migration, and decreasing expenses on healthcare and veterinary care as well as agriculture inputs.

The lean season typically begins in October/November as household stocks are exhausted and most poor households rely on markets for food. However, this year, due to significantly below average harvests and continued deterioration in the macroeconomy, the lean season is expected to start in July/August. In years with a below average harvest households typically rely on the following coping strategies: intensification of casual labor and self-employment services, labor migration, increased consumption and sale of wild resources (e.g. fruits, thatching grass, firewood), increased livestock sales among others. However, this year households are also likely to sell critical household and productive assets and withdraw children from school, and in the most severely affected areas some households are expected to engage in begging.

Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected to be present across the country from the October to January 2020 period; however, it is anticipated there will be some households in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) in some parts of the country including Kariba, Binga, Hwange, Gokwe North, Mbire, Mudzi, and Chipinge as there was little to no harvest and market prices are expected to increase with household incomes not able to keep pace. Large scale humanitarian assistance is needed through at least March 2019 across the country to prevent food consumption gaps and the loss of livelihoods.

*Events that Might Change the Outlook*

Possible events over the next eight months that could change the most-likely scenario.

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
National	Below average rainfall	This will have negative impacts on crop and livestock production and worsen livelihood activities such as casual labor, livestock condition and sales. This will most likely increase the number of households in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in the short-term and have long-term impacts on the food security situation across the country.
	Very high inflation or hyperinflation	This will greatly erode household incomes, disposable incomes, and purchasing power; may result in basic commodity shortages; increasing the number of food insecure among the poor and other wealth groups. This will most likely lead to Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes in some areas.

**AREAS OF CONCERN*****Kariba Valley Kariangwe Jambezi Communal Livelihood Zone - Binga District****Current Situation*

Cumulative rainfall during the 2018/19 rainfall season in Binga District was the second lowest in the historical record; 57 percent of the 4-year average and below rainfall during the 2015/16 El Nino drought. Key informant interviews in May indicated that between 50 to 60 percent of households had little to no cereal harvest. Preliminary production estimates by the MoA indicate Binga District harvested about 1,700 MT of maize, 20 percent of the 5-year average; 1,100 MT of pearl millet, 37 percent of average; and just about 500 MT of sorghum, 18 percent of average.

Household cereal stocks are already exhausted as the harvest supplied poor households with food for only 1-month. As a result, market purchases began atypically early this season, although high and increasing grain and maize meal prices are limiting access by poor households. Maize grain is available in a few markets across the district. Maize grain in these markets is supplied from a few surplus-producing wards in eastern Binga. Where available, maize grain prices averaged RTGS \$15 for a 17.5kg bucket in early May and most poor households are unable to purchase maize grain at this price. In addition, grain milling costs range between RTGS \$3-4 per 17.5kg bucket of maize, up from RTGS \$1 a few months ago.

Maize meal is relatively more available across most wards and has become the preferred secondary source of staple foods this year in households that can afford it. Prices ranged from RTGS \$13 to \$15 per 10kg of maize meal in early May. Maize grain and meal were available at the GMB depot in Binga Centre, selling at RTGS \$20/50kg for maize and RTGS \$6.50 for a 10kg packet of maize meal in May. Though the GMB prices were the cheapest on the markets; however, most poor households in remote areas are unable to access these markets due to poor transport and high transportation costs and resort to more expensive local cereal purchases.

The prices of other basic food and non-food commodities have also increased substantially. In addition, the US\$ to RTGS \$ parallel market exchange rates applied in Binga on goods and services are much higher compared to those in urban and other parts of the country due to remoteness of the district. Livestock markets are also having difficulty as a result of the liquidity challenges and low disposable incomes. Most farmers prefer cash payments for their livestock ahead of mobile money transfers.

The poor 2018/19 rainfall season resulted in below normal ground and surface water levels with most seasonal streams dry atypically early in May. Some boreholes are already starting to show signs of drying. As a result, water availability and access for domestic, livestock watering and other livelihood uses is increasingly becoming a challenge. Pastures remain largely in very poor condition in most areas following the poor rains and, in some places, livestock are already walking long distances for drinking water. As a result, cattle are generally in fair to poor condition; however, goats are in fair to good condition.

Livestock supplementary feeds are largely unavailable on the markets, and even if they were to be available, prevailing prices are very prohibitive for poor households. Some common livestock (cattle, goats and chickens) diseases were reported across most wards of the district.

To access food or income some households engage in illegal coping activities such as poaching in game parks and illegal fishing in the Zambezi River. In addition, many households are increasing their engagement in the selling of firewood and other small self-employment activities, although incomes from these sources is below average. The availability of wild products (e.g. fruits, grass etc.) for consumption or selling is below normal levels due to poor rains received last season.

Most poor households are already employing other consumption coping strategies such as reducing meal portions, preferentially feeding the young ahead of adults, as well as begging. As a result, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are present.

*Assumptions for the Kariba Valley Kariangwe Jambezi Communal Livelihood Zone*

In addition to the national-level assumptions, the most likely scenario in this livelihood zone are based on the following assumptions:

- The national level assumptions are most likely to occur to a greater degree in this livelihood zone.
- Based on historical trends, interannual assistance the government and partners provide is likely to be distributed during the lean season.

*Most Likely Food Security Outcomes*

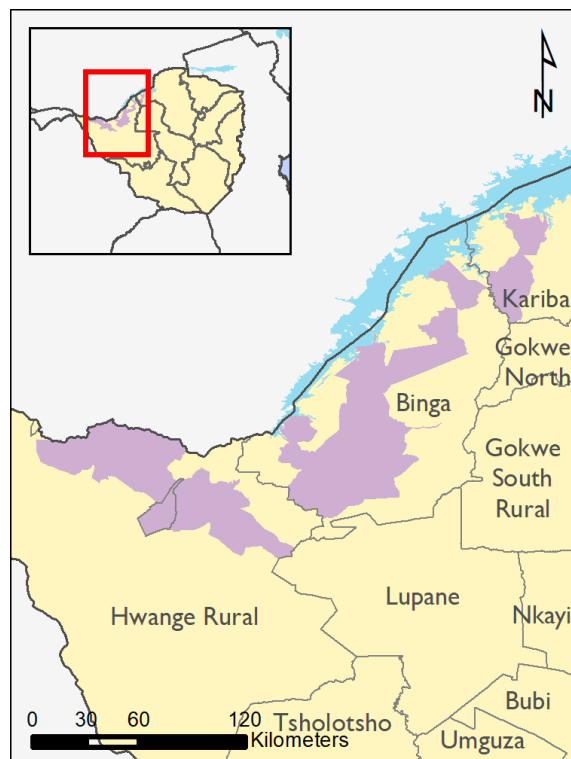
Most poor households from the October to January 2020 period will most likely not afford food and non-basic food expenditures. Typical livelihood options and incomes (remittances, livestock sales, casual labor, petty trading, craft sales etc.) will be below normal, and worse than between June and September. An increasing proportion of households will likely employ emergency coping strategies which include asset disposal, desperate livestock sales including the last females, and engaging in illegal activities including poaching, and begging. Mainly Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are anticipated to prevail, with some households experiencing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes.

*Events that Might Change the Outlook*

Possible events that could change the most-likely scenario:

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
KVKJC Livelihood Zone	Late start and below normal humanitarian assistance	Will worsen the food security outcomes and even lead to pockets of Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes in the most critical parts of the district

**Figure 7.** Reference map for area of concern - Kariba Valley Kariangwe Jambezi Communal Livelihood Zone



Source: FEWS NET



**Masvingo Manicaland Middleveld Communal Livelihood Zone (focus on Buhera District)**

*Current Situation*

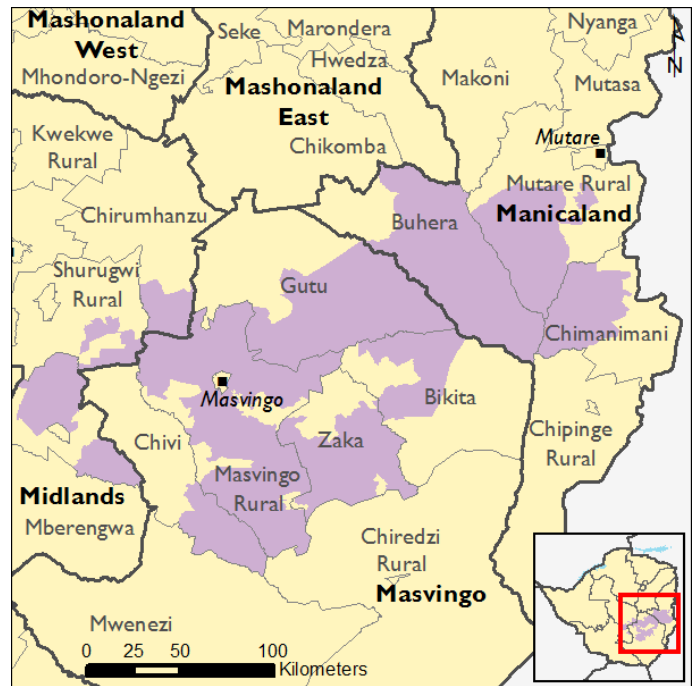
Buhera District experienced a very poor 2018/19 cropping season characterized by late start of rains, prolonged dry spells and below normal cumulative rainfall. In late March, Cyclone Idai caused flooding, and strong winds damaged what remained of the late crop that had shown signs of recovery after the earlier rains that month. Over 40 percent of maize was lost due to poor rains, flooding, and extremely high temperatures, including 10 percent of small grains. As a result of a poor rainfall season, only an estimated 1,600 MT of maize was produced, 90 percent below previous year and 85 percent below the five-year average. Due to the cyclone, 7,000 hectares of maize were reportedly lost, as well as 1,200ha for other crops including groundnuts, melons, and vegetables. Total cereal production for the district was 9,500 MT, 66 percent below the previous year and 62 percent below the five-year average (Figure 9).

Most poor households did not have a harvest and those with a harvest exhausted their own-produced stocks by the end of May. In addition, maize supply is limited in most markets. Maize grain and maize meal prices are increasing significantly. Maize grain prices at the GMB depot in the district increased by 74 percent from RTGS \$21 to RTGS \$36 for a 50kg maize between April and May. Sorghum prices also increased by 153 percent. Maize grain prices on the open markets increased by over 50 percent to RTGS \$15 (\$0.86/kg) in May up from RTGS \$10 (\$0.57/kg) in April.

Livestock conditions are fair to poor for cattle and good for small stock. Cattle are affected by tick borne diseases with veterinary care continuing to be a challenge. In January, this resulted in the outbreak of the January disease (Theileriosis) leading to over 1,300 cattle deaths between January and May. Poorly resourced farmers are failing to procure their own drugs for veterinary care as prices have remained high or were previously pegged in scarce USD. Cattle prices averaged RTGS \$1,200 (USD400), goats RTGS \$80 (USD20), indigenous chickens RTGS \$12 (USD3) and broilers RTGS \$16 (USD5), above average prices (MoA).

Employment opportunities and wages for casual labor across the area are below average. Due to a poor rainfall season and difficult economic environment, there are limited livelihood options for most households. Coping strategies for some households include selling firewood, brewing beer, reducing non-food expenses, atypically high levels of livestock sales, selling assets and borrowing money to buy food. In addition, most households are consuming only one or two meals a day. As a result, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are present. Humanitarian assistance is needed to close food consumptions gaps and prevent further deterioration of the situation.

**Figure 8.** Reference map for area of concern – Masvingo Manicaland Middleveld Communal Livelihood Zone



Source: FEWS NET

**Figure 9.** Buhera District Production Trends in Metric Tonnes (MT)

Crop	2018/19	2017/18	Five-year average	Percent difference -last year	Percent difference – five-year average
Maize	1,622	15,746	10,977	-90%	-85%
Sorghum	1,915	4,283	7,332	-55%	-74%
Pearl Millet	5,995	8,155	6,569	-26%	-9%
Finger Millet	449	1,388	1,697	-68%	-74%
Groundnuts	4,496	10,549	6,499	-57%	-31%
<b>Total Cereal</b>	<b>9,532</b>	<b>28,184</b>	<b>24,878</b>	<b>-66%</b>	<b>-62%</b>

Source: Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement

*Assumptions for Masvingo Manicaland Middleveld Communal Livelihood Zone*

In addition to the national-level assumptions, the most likely scenario in this livelihood zone are based on the following assumptions:

- The national level assumptions are most likely to occur to a greater degree in this livelihood zone

*Most Likely Food Security Outcomes for the MMMC Livelihood Zone*

Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected to prevail in the June to September period. Own-produced stocks for most households will be exhausted by July, compared to October during typical years. Consumption based coping strategies such as reducing portion sizes and number of meals are expected to continue. Most livelihood options will remain constrained, including casual labor, self-employment, petty trade, vegetable production and sales. Some households will likely dispose of valuable assets to access food. Market purchases will be limited due to poor incomes and high food prices. Barter trade for food is likely to occur throughout the scenario period as the cash crisis continues and household incomes remain poor.

Food consumption and livelihoods will deteriorate from the October to January period with more people in the district likely to experience Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Due to the then exhausted own-produced stocks, poor incomes and high food prices, an increasing proportion of households will engage in crisis and/or emergency coping to meet their food needs. Activities such as begging for food, withdrawing children from school, purchasing on credit and above normal livestock and asset sales are likely to occur. It is most likely some households are anticipated to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), although this will not be sufficient for area level outcomes.

*Events that Might Change the Outlook*

Possible events over the next eight months that could change the most-likely scenario.

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
Deficit-producing areas	Late start and below normal humanitarian assistance	Will worsen the food security outcomes and even lead to pockets of Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes in the most critical parts of the country

**ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT**

To project food security outcomes, FEWS NET develops a set of assumptions about likely events, their effects, and the probable responses of various actors. FEWS NET analyzes these assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to arrive at a most likely scenario for the coming eight months. [Learn more here.](#)