

Sub-National Food Security Information System

Livelihoods Profiles

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
CFSAM	Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission
CSO	Central Statistics Office
DFID	Department For International Development
EMOP	Emergency Operations
FANR	Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Directorate (SADC)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FEZ	Food Economy Zone
GOZ	Government of Zimbabwe
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
HH	Households
HIV	Human Immuno Deficiency Virus
LZ	Livelihood Zone (also known as Food economy Zone)
MEPD	Ministry of Economic Development and Planning
MOAC	Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives
MT	Metric Tonnes
MEI	Maize Equivalent Income
NEWU	National Early Warning Unit
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NMC	National Maize Corporation
NMS	National Meteorological Service
NVAC	National Vulnerability Assessment Committee
RVAC	Regional Vulnerability Assessment Committee
RHVP	Regional Hunger and Vulnerability Programme
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SC SZ	Save the Children Swaziland
SC UK	Save the Children United Kingdom
SEG	Socio-Economic Groups
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
VAC	Vulnerability Assessment Committee
VAA	Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit
WFP	World Food Programme

Introduction

Objective of the Report

This report presents the livelihoods reference profiles in seven food economy zones (FEZs) of Zimbabwe between June 2006 and July 2007. It also builds on some of the analysis conducted over the last five years since June 2001.

The report is organised in three main sections: a brief introduction to the pilot project; Chapter 2 provides the details of the livelihoods profiles; Chapter 3 provides the main conclusions.

Methodology

Background to Vulnerability and Risk Analysis

Understanding vulnerability or susceptibility of households and areas to shocks can only be achieved through detailed information on the livelihood patterns employed by different socio-economic groups in different parts of the country. The concept of zoning for food security and livelihoods analysis in Zimbabwe dates back to 1996, when a risk mapping of Zimbabwe was carried out by Save the Children (UK). The livelihoods baselines outlined in this report are the basis for assessments and analysis of the sub national food security situation between June 2006 and July 2007, with regular monitoring and updates over the last six months (July and November 2007) up dates.

The assessments were conducted using the Household Economy Approach framework of analysis (HEA) with an aim of creating detailed livelihoods profiles for purposes of strengthening VAA and monitoring systems to inform design of relief, recovery and development (social protection) programmes as well as advocacy for appropriate policies in the country.

The assessment was conducted by a consortium of Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) namely Save the Children (UK), Concern WorldWide and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) with funding from DFID-RHVP and initial co-ordination by the Technical Learning and Co-ordination Unit (TLC).

Livelihoods Based Vulnerability Assessment Approach

The basic principle underlying the livelihoods based vulnerability analysis is about events that beset a particular area or - late rains, land reform, hyper inflation causing persistent rise in food prices, falling cotton prices, closure of mines or livestock diseases- can only be properly interpreted if seen against the context of how people normally live. For instance households who depend on their own production for much of their food needs will be affected by drought more severely than households who buy more of their food using income gained from non agricultural employment. These more market-dependent households, on the other hand, will be affected more by hyper inflation or macro-economic events such as the rapid economic decline in Zimbabwe that undermines employment. In other words , an understanding of people's livelihoods is essential for the accurate analysis of the impact of any significant change, including climate, market, macro economic performance , social protection interventions or existing policies on households. The idea of maintaining food economy /livelihoods baselines is to capture essential facts on local livelihoods and coping strategies, making it possible for a combined analysis on relative vulnerability following the impact of hazards or shocks.

Livelihoods Zoning

Livelihoods patterns clearly vary from one area to another according to local factors such as climate, soil, markets access and economic shocks. The first step in a livelihoods based analysis is therefore to prepare a food economy zone. i.e. a map delineating geographical areas within which people share similar patterns of access to food (i.e. they grow the same crops, keep the same types of livestock, etc), income and have the same access to markets. Nationally Zimbabwe has 23 Food Economy Zones (Food Economy Zones).

Wealth Break Down

Geography is not the only factor that determines the pattern of livelihoods. While geography tends to define a household's options for obtaining food and income, the ability to exploit those options and to survive in a crisis is determined largely by wealth. In other words , what people have by way of land, capital and livestock , together with their educational status and access to political and social networks determines the ways in which they will be able to get food and cash, as well as the ways in which they will be able to respond to sudden or long-term change. Gender and social status plays an important role in determining this access to food and cash, and responses to shocks and change. To capture the variations , the HEA analytical framework seeks to characterise typical households within each zone according to at least three (commonly four and sometimes more) wealth groups. A wealth group is the category of households that share similar capacities to exploit the different food and income options within a particular livelihoods zone.

Analysis of Livelihoods Strategies

Having grouped households according to where they live and their wealth, the next step is to examine patterns of food and cash income and patterns of expenditure over a defined reference period. This gives a baseline picture of exactly how households get the food and cash they need, and of what they spend their money on.

Baseline + Hazard + Response = Outcome

The objective of food security and livelihoods analysis can finally be achieved by investigating the effects of a hazard /shock (e.g. drought or price increase in staple foods) on future access to food and income , so that decisions can be taken about the most appropriate types of interventions to implement. The rationale behind the approach is that a good understanding of how people have survived in the past provides a sound basis for projecting into the future. Three types of information are combined; information on normal or baseline access to food and income , information on hazards (i.e. factors affecting access to food/income, such as crop production or market prices) and information on response strategies (i.e. the sources of food and income that people turn to when exposed to a hazard) . The approach can be summarized as baseline + hazard + response= outcome of the livelihoods situation.

Field work:

The fieldwork exercise took place in the last two years and each FEZ assessment covered a period of two weeks, during which twenty key informant interviews and a minimum of fourty household wealth group interviews were conducted using focus group discussions (FGDs). The focus groups were composed of community leaders such as village heads, elders and opinion leaders for key informant interviews and typical household members for household wealth group interviews, classified by key informants into wealth groups.

Brief Background on Zimbabwe:

Zimbabwe is a land locked country with a land area of 390,757km of which 85% is agricultural and the remaining comprises national parks, state forests and urban land. land borders the Republic of Zambia in the North, Mozambique in the East, South Africa in the South and Botswana/Namibia in the West. The country's economy is mainly comprised of agriculture , mining and manufacturing activities. However, agriculture plays a critical role in the overall development of the country. As of 1998, agriculture contributed 11-14% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provided 70% of employment, however this has since shrunk, with an overall structural unemployment of over 80% by January 2008.

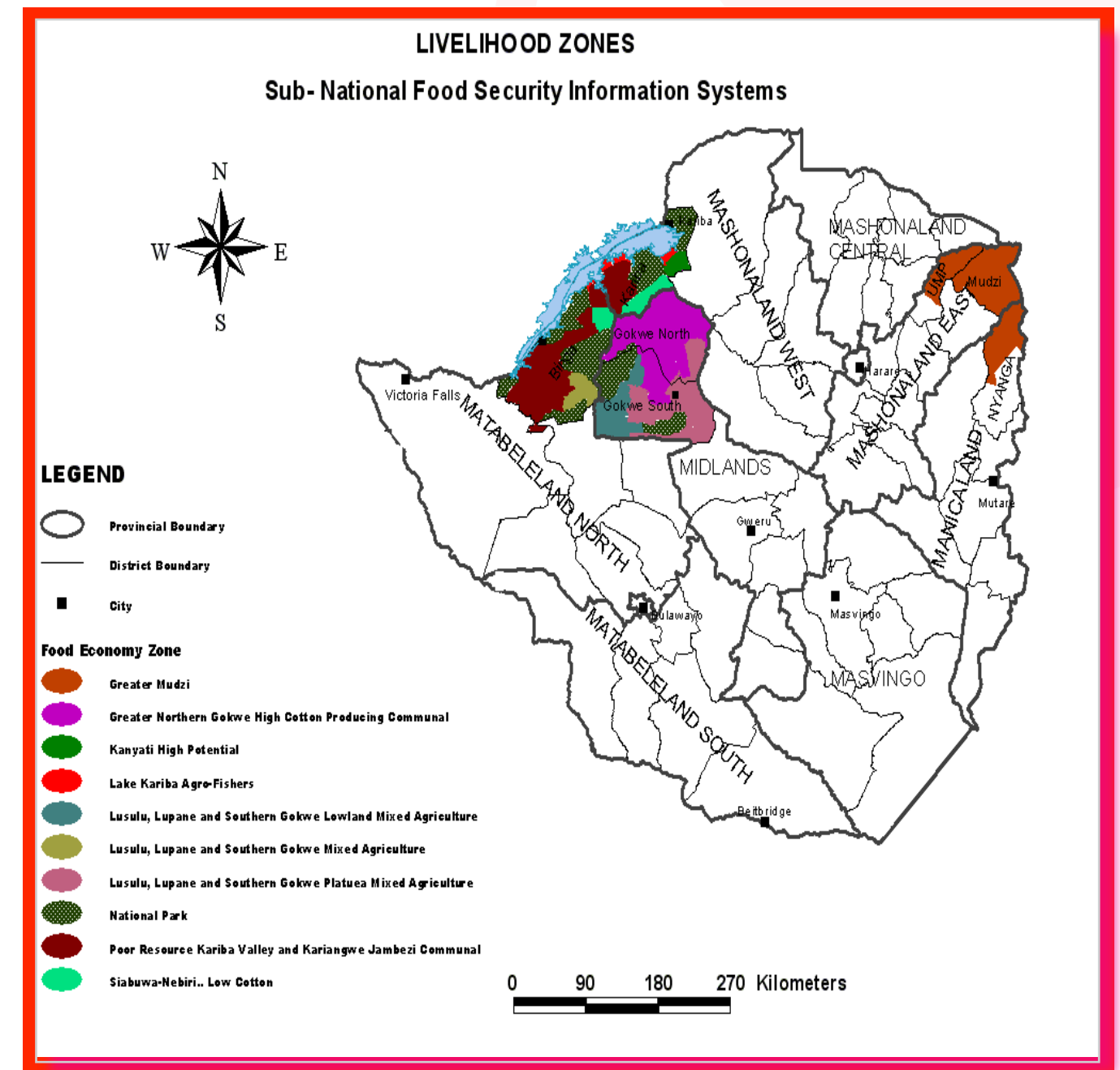
Zimbabwe is divided into five Natural Regions based on agro-ecological potential, descending from the prime lands in Natural Region I, which are primarily devoted to dairy, forestry, tea and coffee production, to Natural region IV, where infertile soil and dry weather conditions make agricultural production very risky, but more suited for animal husbandry.

At independence in 1980, Zimbabwe inherited a dual agricultural economy , consisting of a highly productive, highly skilled and mechanized large- scale commercial farming sector mainly located in areas with good soil and favourable rainfall patterns between Natural Regions I and III, along side a low skilled , low productivity , communal agriculture sector mainly located in dry and infertile regions in natural Regions III, IV and V.

Approximately 65% of the population of Zimbabwe resides in rural areas. Principal livelihoods activities are crop production (food and cash crops), animal husbandry, and employment on commercial farming estates, with limited off farm economic activities. Major food crops are cereals (maize, wheat, sorghum and millet), and vegetables; major cash crops are cotton, sugar, tobacco, and horticultural produce (tomatoes, potatoes, pepper and baby corn).

The most significant change to Zimbabwe's social and economic structure was the initiation of the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) fast track land reform program in June 2002. Land was acquired from primarily white large scale commercial farmers for re-distribution to predominantly black Zimbabweans. Polarisation on appropriate reform methodology compromised the potential efficacy of land reform as a poverty alleviation strategy. Resettled farmers have since been constrained by limited support services despite efforts by the Government of Zimbabwe to support agricultural production.

Map showing the Seven Food Economy Zones



Sub National FSIS general Seasonal Calendar

Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rainfall												
Land Prep												
Planting												
Weeding												
Harvest												
Selling of												
Cotton												
Maize												
Sorghum												
G/nuts												
Residual removal												
Selling of:												
Cattle												
Goats												
Chicken												
Milking												
Purchases												
Food Items												
New Food Items												
Non-Agriculture Casual Labour												
Restocking												
Brick Moulding												
Gold panning												
Construction												
Crafts												

Peak Period

Off-Peak Period

Avearge Peak Period

Rural Sources of Food and Cash Income: Main Findings and Implications

Zimbabwe’s varied ecological and climatic picture is the main factor distinguishing the seven FEZs. The other important factor is access to markets and trade with other local economies. The FEZs covered lie in the Zambezi Valley basin, Gokwe sub region and parts of eastern Zimbabwe and include the Poor Resource Kariba Valley, Kariangwe Jambezi (PRKVKJC); Siabuwa-Nebiri Low Cotton (SN-LCP); Kanyati High Potential Cotton Production; Agro Fisheries (Gache-Gache), Greater Northern Gokwe High Cotton Production Communal (GNGHCPC), Southern Gokwe Plateau Mixed Agriculture; Southern Gokwe Lowlands Mixed Agriculture and Greater Mudzi Communal area. These rural FEZs have similar livelihoods patterns, however with varying levels of self sufficiency particulary inview of agricultural production, markets and trade as well as hazards affecting the population and response strategies.

Other main differences include the intensity of subsistence agriculture and level of dependency on other livelihoods options such as cotton production, fishing, local crafts and access to markets including cross border and barter trade. The main sources of food are own crop production and livestock products particulary among the “middle” and “better-off” households. Other food sources include direct market purchase, although this is less common among the poorer households. The main sources of cash income include cotton production among the population in Gokwe sub region compared with livestock particularly cattle in parts of the PRKVKJC in Binga district. Fishing is more prominent in the Agro fisheries areas and cross border trade is a major source of income in Northern Nyanga district, which is part of the Greater Mudzi Communal FEZ.

Comparatively Southern Gokwe Plateau is more self sufficient (food and cash needs), as such experiences less extreme poverty than the other six FEZs. Meanwhile Saibuwa Nebiri Low Cotton FEZ is the poorest area among all covered FEZs with relatively more number of households experiencing extreme poverty and hunger on an annual basis. Generally the entire population in all the FEZs are highly vulnerable to the following hazards:

- Unpredictable weather conditions such as frequent droughts and floods.
- Extremely low prices of cash crops, particularly cotton.
- Poor marketing and processing facilities including lack of physical market facilities.
- Poor extension services.

- Limited labour among the poorer households.
- Hyper inflation exacerbating extreme poverty and hunger.
- Unfair government policies, such as restricted grain marketing across the country.
- HIV and AIDs pandemic, contraining household labour force/increase of asset poor households.
- General macro-economic failure evidenced by lack of basic commodities and transport services among others.

Poor Resource Kariba Valley, Kariangwe Jambezi Communal FEZ:

Main Conclusions and Implications:

Located in the north west of the country, the Kariba Valley suffers from chronic problems of food insecurity and is part of Natural Region IV and V. Most parts of the zone are relatively isolated from the rest of the country. The isolation contributes a significant part of the overall extreme poverty in the area. The remote location means fewer lucrative employment and market opportunities, as well as higher prices of food and other essential commodities. Despite low agricultural productivity, the crops grown and and livestock kept provide a significant part of the food and cash income for this rural population. Cash cropping (mainly cotton) occurs but is also a risky economic activity due to unfavourable climatic conditions and low prices. Vegetable gardening adds some income, but more important are earnings from local jobs with remittances also declining. A few areas in Kariangwe-Jambezi are near to the main highway leading to major tourist locations which offers some trade and work opportunities. The colliery and power company located in the zone also provide opportunities for employment and trade. Food aid is a notable predictable transfer over the last eight years. This zone will require a significant amount of resources to support various social protection interventions , inorder to address the prevelant extreme poverty and hunger.

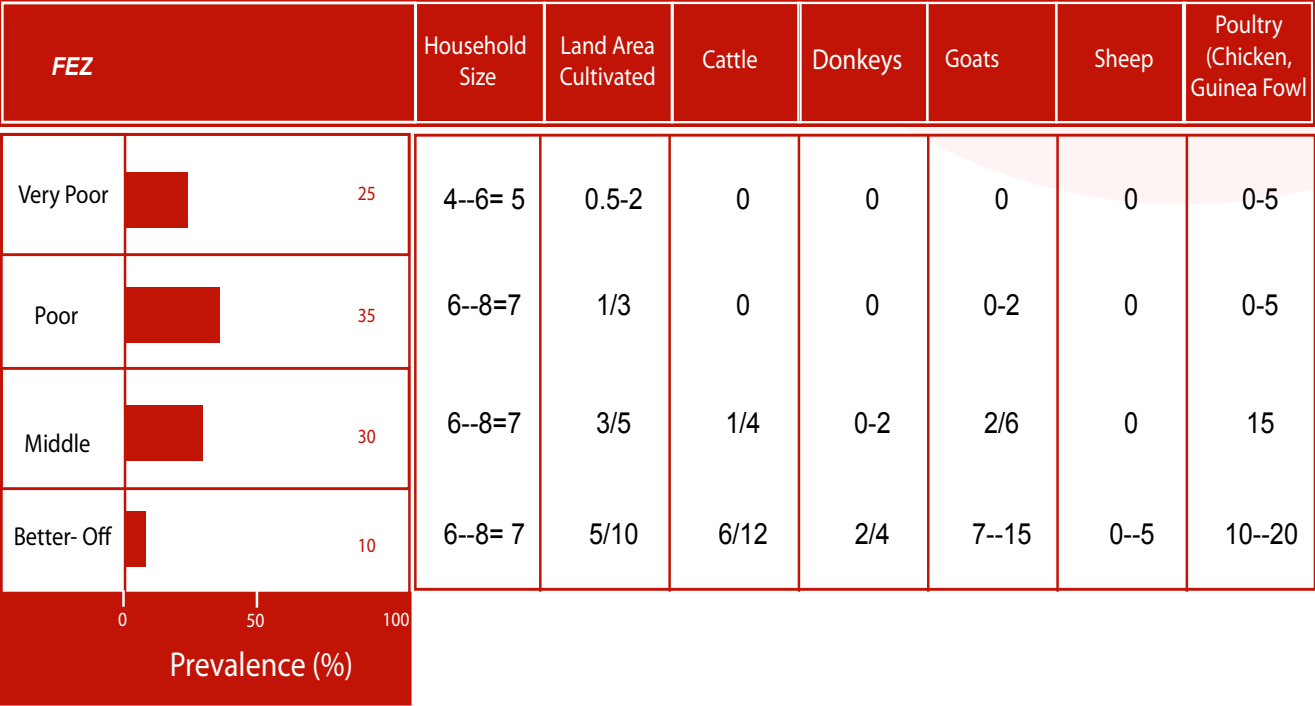
Zone Description:

The soils in the zone are granitic, sandy and highly degraded after years of monocropping without any fallow period. (This partly explains the low crop yields in the area). Rainfall is erratic and averages at 450-650 mm per annum and crops cultivated are mainly sorghum, millet and to a less extent maize with annually low yields.

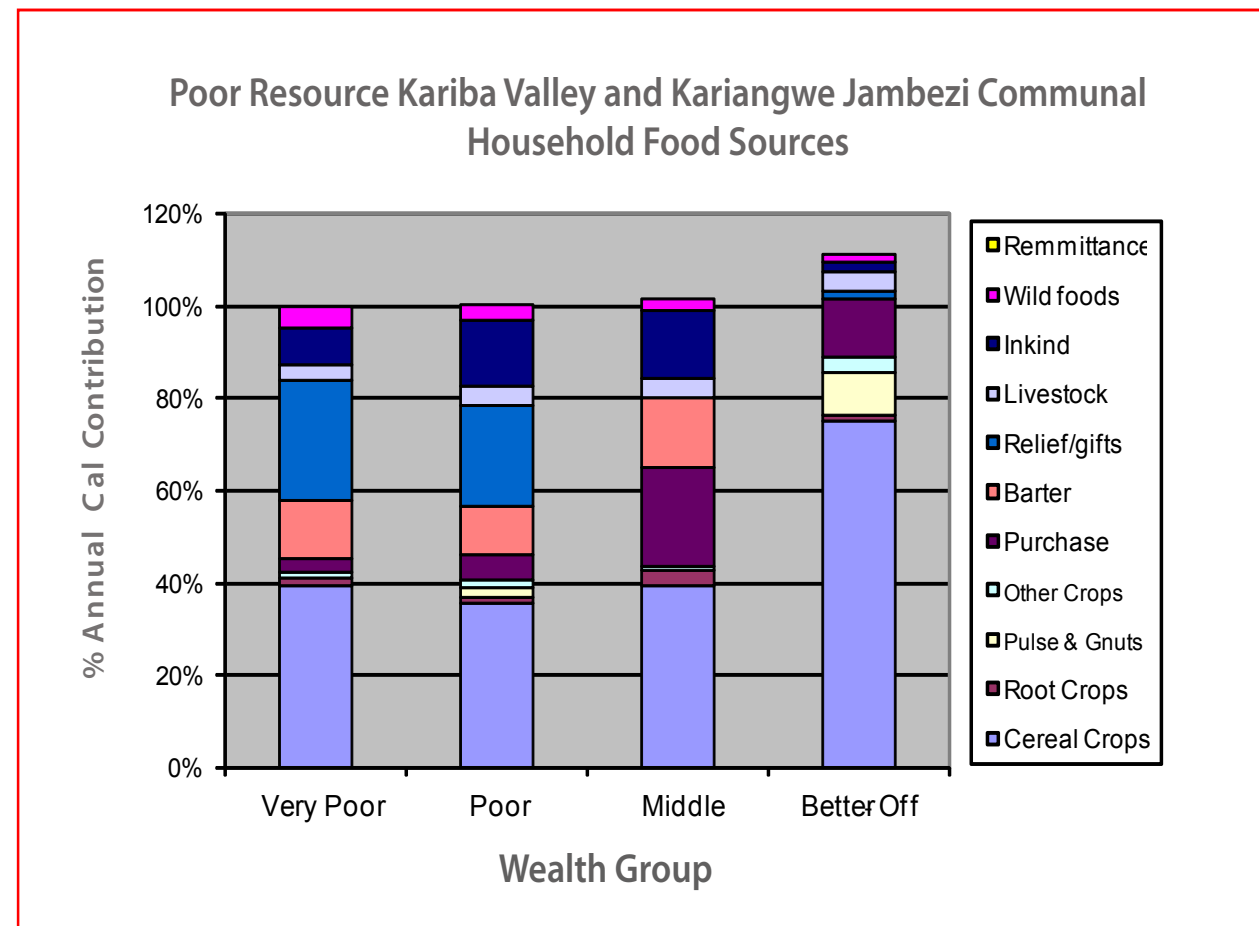
Access to Markets:

An important highway runs through the zone, which provides a potential market for sale of handicrafts, cereals and animals. The main commodity markets are local. Grain is bought and sold through the Government monopoly, Grain Marketing Board (GMB) and on the alternative market, although GMB grain reserves and supplies have steadily declined over the past five years. Livestock are sold to external private traders, who inturn re-sell the animals in places such as Hwange, Bulawayo and Gokwe districts. Roadside markets have declined due to a fall in tourism industry, which used to provide local market for cottage industries such as local crafts.

Wealth Break Down:



Summary of Food Sources:

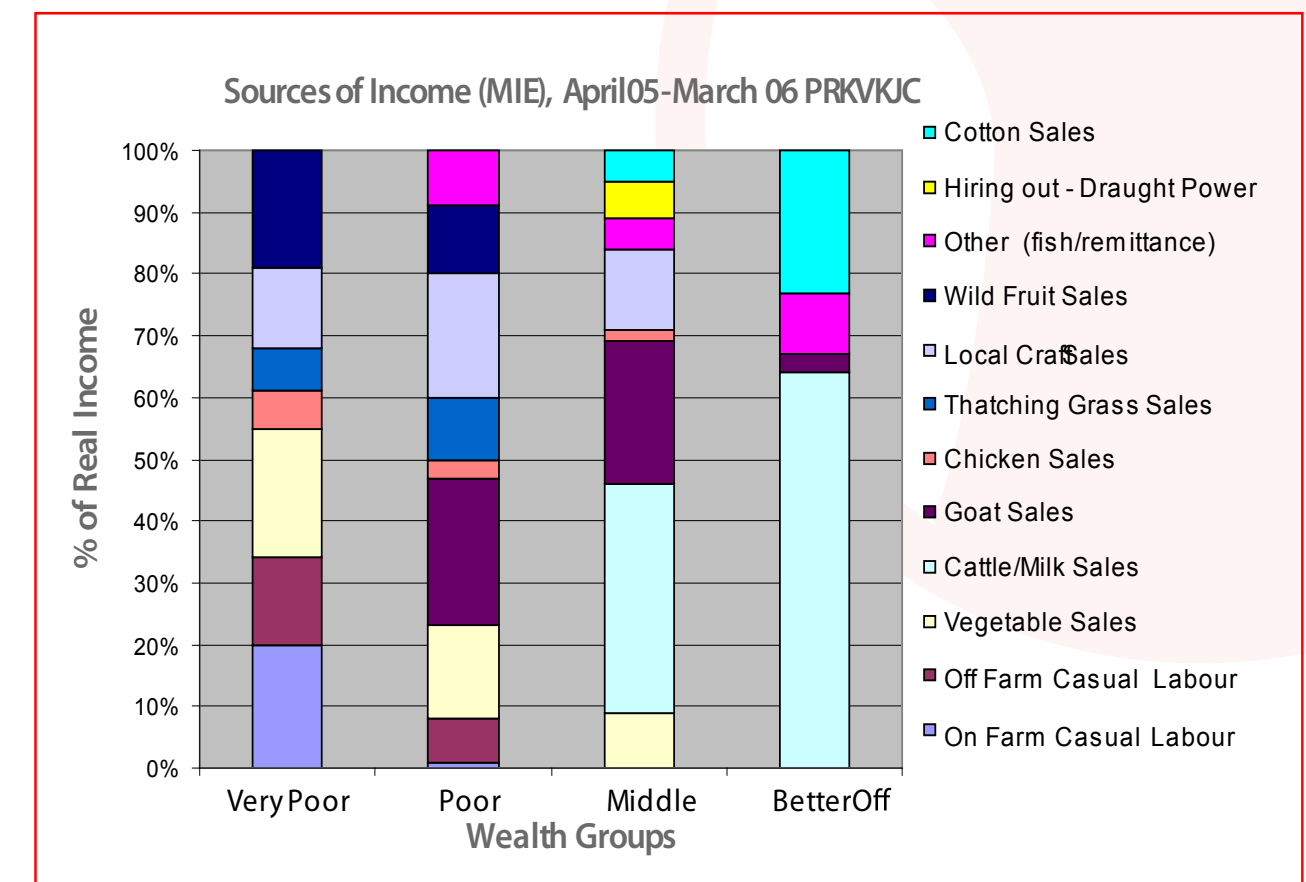


Over-own crop production is the main source of food among all wealth groups. Household diet is primarily composed of cereals such as millet, maize and sorghum. The poorer category rely less on own crop harvest, compared with other wealth groups. Livestock products are not a typical source of food among all wealth groups, due to household preference for livestock-grain trade. Main livestock products consumed are chicken, eggs and some milk particularly among the “middle” and “better-off” category of households. Overall direct market purchase is mainly from informal markets than supplies from the GMB.

Unlike the poorer households, labour exchange for grain is a significant source of food among the less labour “poor” households due to frequent local migration in neighbouring FEZs in the Gokwe sub region. Goat sales are the most common source of cash income, but local and migratory wage work, crafts, natural resource exploitation and beer sales are other sources of income in this resource-poor area. In areas such as Kariangwe – Jambezi, close proximity to Hwange provides work opportunities for the poor on commercial farms, and easy access to the tourist craft market. Livestock -grain trade is a major source of food among the “poor” wealth group, although its generally one of the most food insecure parts of the country.

Relief food aid has been a major predictable transfers among at least 60 percent of the entire population over the last six years in the PRKVKJC FEZ. It annually contributes about 15-25% of the annual food needs of the poorer households. However gifts/remittances have significantly reduced as a main source of food. Wild Foods remain another vital source of food among all the households in the Zambezi Valley region.

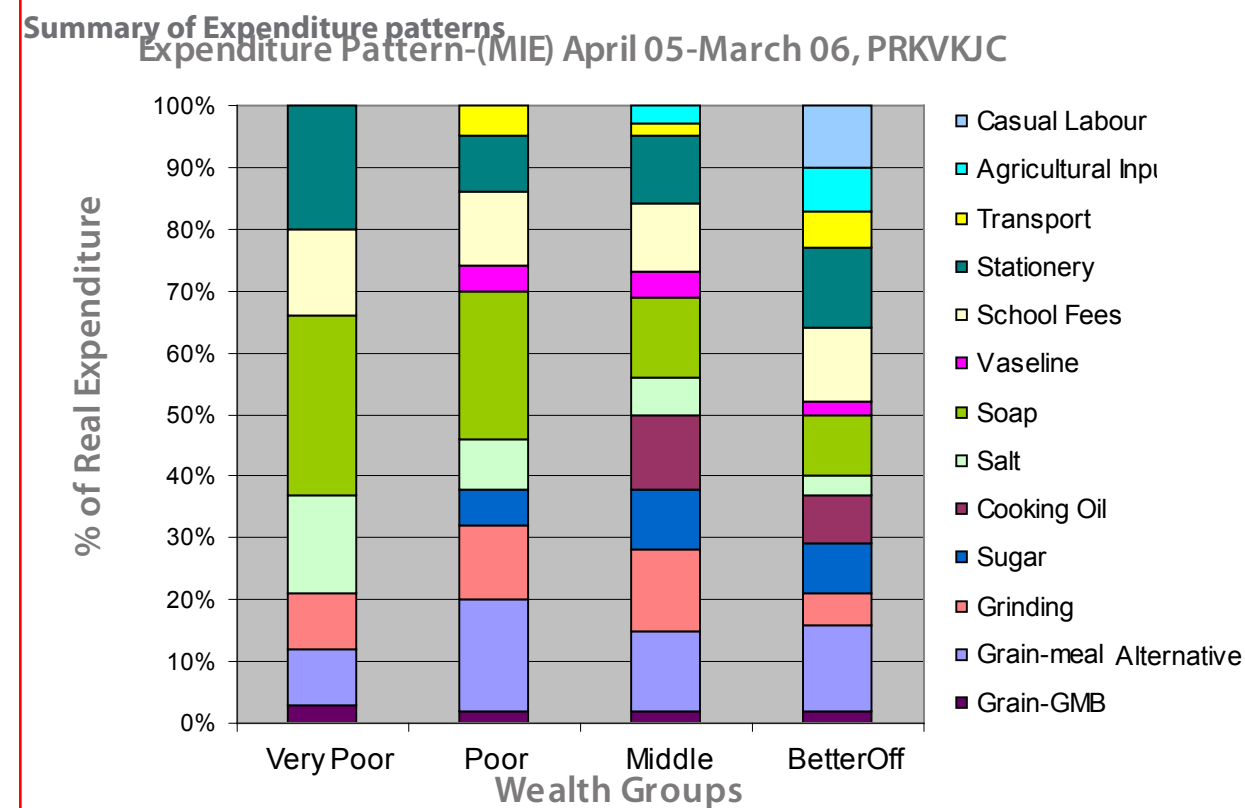
Summary of Income Sources



In the past three years, hyper inflation has made it practically difficult to clearly understand the functional relationship between income and expenditure using the normal HEA techniques in Zimbabwe. Persistent increase in prices of commodities do not necessarily match income earnings in both rural and urban areas. Most of rural income derived through sale of vegetables, local craft, thatching grass and construction poles carried out by the labour “poor” households does not match the pace of hyperinflation experienced by the Zimbabwean economy. As a result majority of rural households in the different FEZs can not afford essential household items such as salt, soap, sugar and kerosene among others. All income presented in this report is converted into

maize equivalent (MIE), so as to reflect its real value/purchasing power at the time its earned.

The main cash income among the “poorer” households in this FEZ are on farm and off labour, vegetable, small livestock and local construction material sales. All these sources of income are less responsive to hyper inflation, implying that as prices change, the value of local products does not necessarily match the pace of change in basic commodity prices, undermining household purchasing power.



The poorer households allocate a significant proportion of their expenditure for the purchase of non staple food items such as maize grain with less income spent on non essentials items including social services such as education. The staple cereals are mainly purchased from the alternative market operated by highly exploitative private traders in Gokwe and Bulawayo city. Other unavoidable expenditures include grinding of maize grain, which always rises with the price of fuel. As such the extremely “poor” households can not afford the cost of grinding grain particularly during the lean periods of the year.

Hazards:

Chronic hazards: Drought, floods, pests and livestock diseases, wild life crop destruction.

Periodic hazards: HIV and AIDs, Cholera out breaks and malaria due to high infestation by mosquitoes in Kariba lake.

Response Strategies:

1. Local migration in search of agricultural work.
2. Increased disposal of productive assets such as small livestock
3. Increased consumption of wild foods

Indicators of Imminent Crisis:

Months	Early Warning Indicators
February	Failed cereal crops
February	Significant reduction in maize yields coupled with premature consumption of green maize
June/July	Unfair terms of trade (grain with small livestock)
June	Limited availability and early search for wild foods
November-January	Above average rainfall (<450-600mm) per annum, resulting into yellow crop appearance
January/February	Significant wild life crop destruction
July/August/September	Early season migration in search of labour exchange for food

Siabuwa Nebiri Low Cotton Producing Communal FEZ

Main Conclusions and Implications:

This is a zone where , the population does not expect to grow enough to eat due to various factors such as drought, floods, poor soils, wild animal crop destruction, frequent crop pests and diseases and poor extension services. The situation is exacerbated by lack of physical infrastructure, functional markets and restrictive government marketing policies. Ideally a zone favourable for livestock than crop production, the population try to grow some crops, with a high failure on annual basis. Other survival options include local migration in search of labour exchange for grain in the high cotton producing areas.

Poorer households always need food aid for survival, making it a predictable transfer and an “annual entitlement”. Long term options include support for household productive asset capacity, particularly livestock, which earns them more grain than own crop harvest.

Other important social protection interventions may include; support with draught power through food for communal labour; crop insurance- large scale promotion of drought resitant crops such as cassava, sweet potatoes, wild life unfriendly and oil rich simsim crop and micro area developemnt projects to create employment for purposes of improving income levels and local area development.

Zone Description:

It is a very low potential agricultural zone. Main food crops grown are Sorghum and maize with cotton as the main cash crop among “middle’ and “ better-off” households. The land area is classi-fied as both Natural Region III and IV. Annual rainfall averages 450-650 mm per annum. Adminis-tratively the zone covers part of Siabuwa and Omay communal lands in Binga and Kariba districts. Farmers also keep livestock for draught power and as an asset to sell during hunger periods.

Access to Markets:

Market access in this zone is among the poorest in the country, due to its remoteness from re-gional market hubs such as Gokwe, Bulawayo, Chinoyi among others, excerbated by poor state of roads and characterised by lack of public transport. The only functional market is between house-holds who have a particular item and those who require it. Majority of the population in this zone rely on Gokwe for basic commodities and the items are supplied on irregular basis. Maize grain is purchased and sold by the Grain Marketing Board, while produced cotton is sold to private com-panies in Gokwe sub region.

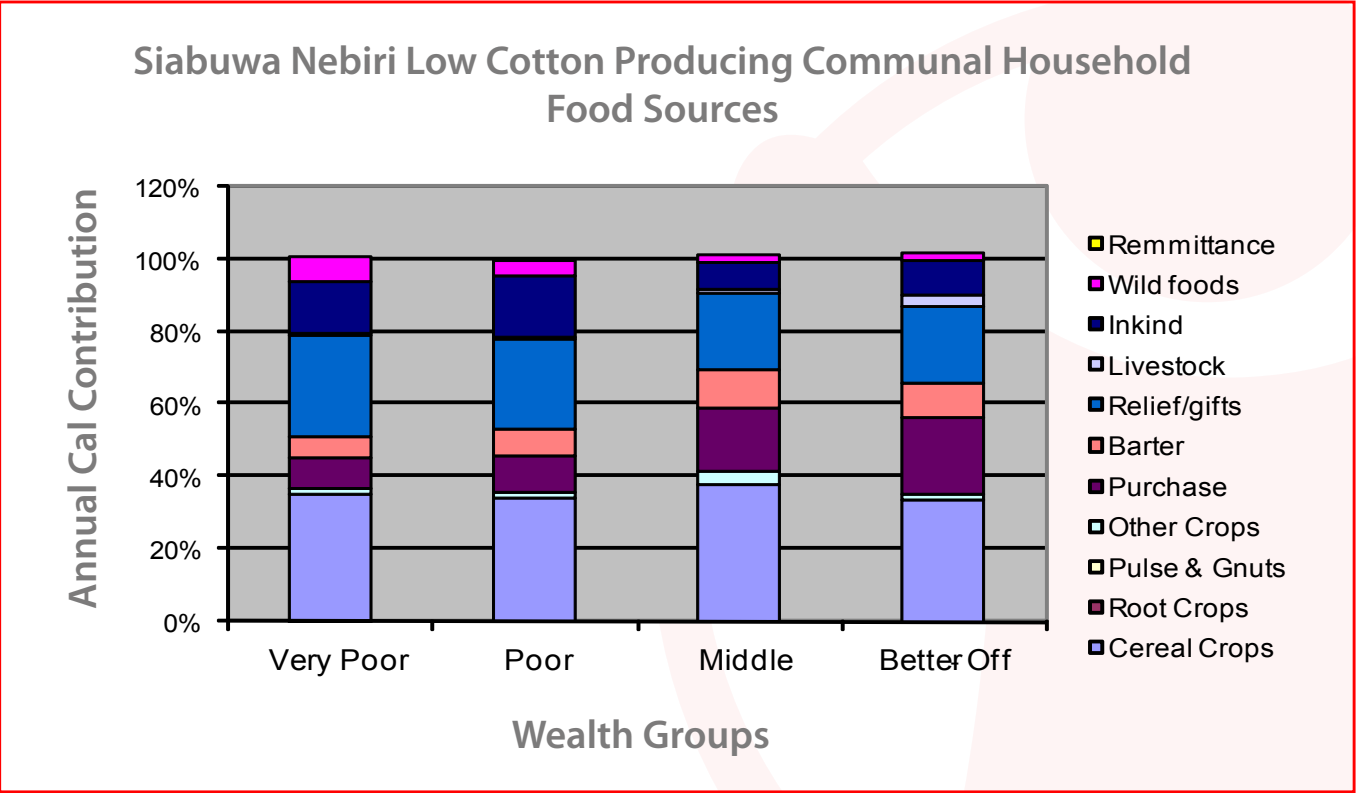
Wealth BreakDown

FEZ		Household Size	Land Area Cultivated	Cattle	Donkeys	Goats	Sheep	Poultry (Chicken, Guinea Fowl)
Very Poor	25	4--6=5	0.5 - 2	0	0	0	0	0 – 3
Poor	35	5--7=6	2/3	0	0	0-3	0	3/5
Middle	30	5--7=6	3/5	1/3	0-2	3/6	0	5/10
Better- Off	10	5--7=6	4 – 10	4 – 8	2/3	6--15	0	5--20

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Prevalence (%)

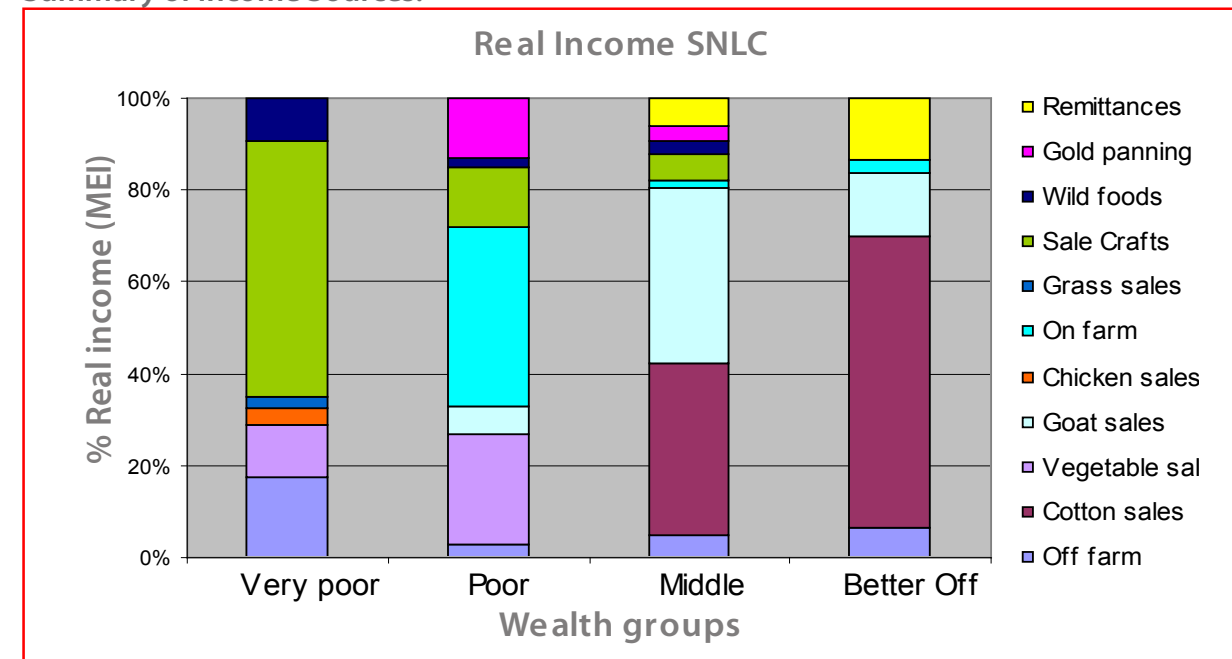
Summary of Food Sources



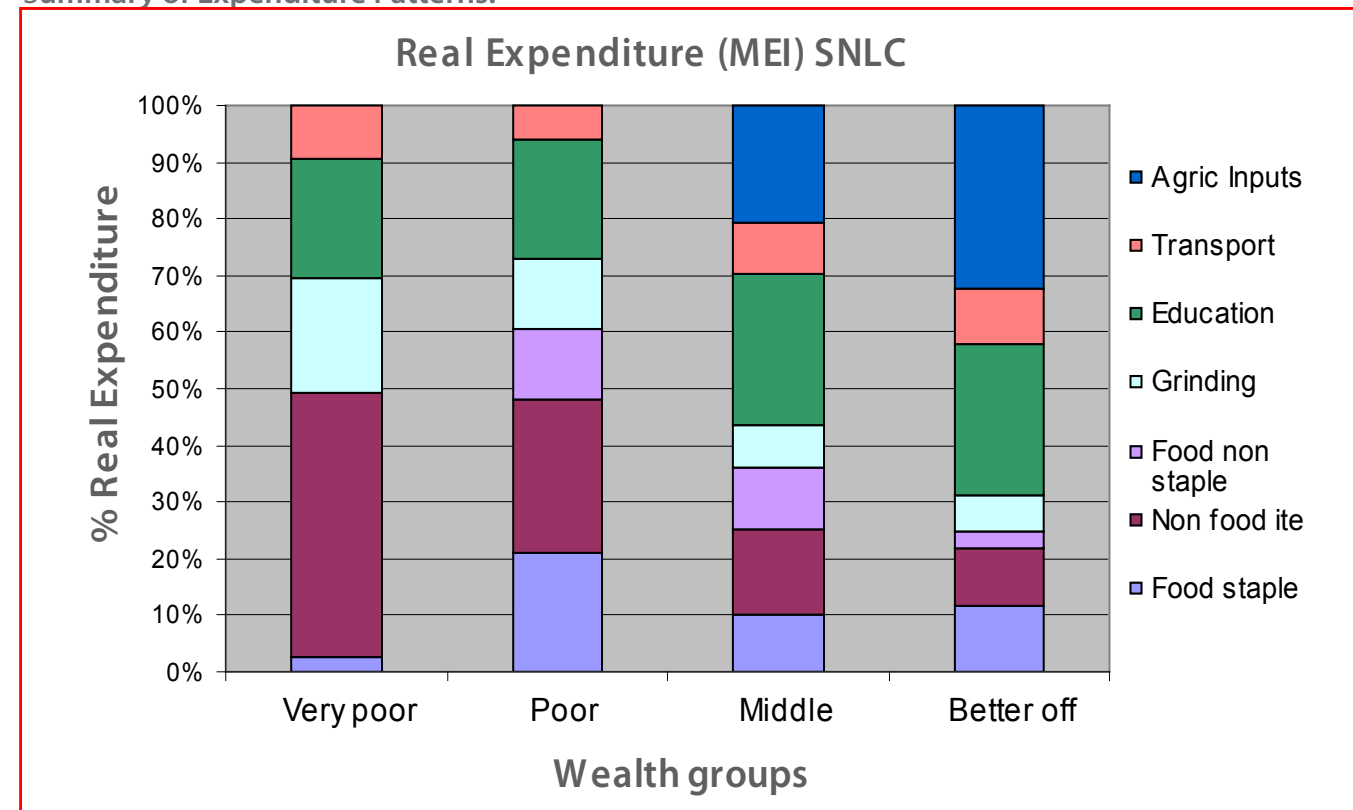
Own crop production is the major source of food, due to limited grain supplies in the main GMB out lets. Main crops grown are cereals such as sorghum and maize with limited pulses due to the nature of soils and climate within the FEZ. Contribution of livestock and products to annual food requirements are relatively very low across all wealth groups. The majority of the population prefer grain-livestock trade compared with cash sales due to hyper-inflation.

Purchase is a very important source of food among “middle” and “better-off” households in the FEZ. The poorer households derive low food needs from direct food purchases, due to low purchasing power and preference for inkind payment.

Bartering is the main form of exchange, particularly item such as small livestock, crafts, thatching grass and fish for grain. However it is a very exploitative trade, with terms of trade mainly skewed in favour of private traders. This has caused more extreme poverty and hunger among the already chronically food insecure households.

Summary of Income Sources:

Household cash income in this FEZ is pegged around cotton production, gold panning, sale of small livestock and local crafts, as well as wild foods within the area. However levels of household income are extremely low and severely affected by hyper-inflation, making it impossible for poorer households to afford basic household commodities such as salt and soap. Remittances received in the FEZ are typically in kind gifts such as grain, maize meal and non staple foods such as sugar. The main reason is the rapid depreciation of the Zimbabwean dollars and limited availability of commodities in the local markets. Some households also practice poaching, however this is not typical among all wealth groups.

Summary of Expenditure Patterns:

The main forms of expenditure are staple, non staple and discretionary expenditure. The poorer households only purchase staple cereals compared with non staple and in some cases discretionary expenditures among the “middle” and “better-off” households. In order to cope with the problem of low income levels, eroded purchasing power due to persistent increase in prices of basic commodities, all wealth groups have devised a wide range of response strategies to meet their survival needs. The poorer households largely engage in barter trade to obtain essential household commodities such as salt and soap compared with distant travel among the “middle” and “better-off” households.

Hazards:

Chronic hazards: Proximity to Mana Pools and Matusadona National Parks has resulted into livestock diseases such as Nagana among cattle and trypanosomiasis among human beings.

Periodic hazards: Dry spells and drought, animal crop destruction among others.

Response Strategies:

1. Increased local migration in search of agricultural work.
2. Increased disposal of productive assets such as small livestock
3. Increased consumption of wild foods

Indicators of Imminent Crisis:

Months	Early Warning Indicators
February	Failed cereal crops
February	Significant reduction in maize yields coupled with premature consumption of green maize
June/July	Unfair terms of trade for grain with small livestock
June	Significant wild life crop destruction
November January	Above average rainfall (<450-600mm) per annum, resulting into yellowish cereal crops
January/February	Early season migration in search of labour exchange for food

Kanyati High Potential FEZ

Main Conclusions and Implications:

Generally a more self sufficient FEZ, Kanyati is a food surplus area compared with the neighbouring Agro-fisheries and Siabuwa Nebiri FEZs. This FEZ produces maize grain, sorghum, millet for food and cotton for cash income. Ideally part of Greater Northern Gokwe, this FEZ is a small geographical area in Kariba district. The households supplement their income through sale of livestock.

Due to the relatively good soils and climate, this zone requires agricultural inputs and veterinary drugs, which are unavailable in the market. Other possible livelihoods options include micro area development interventions such as public works for employment creation and links with lucrative markets across the country.

Zone Description:

This zone is in the north western part of the country and well known for high agricultural production. It only covers parts of Kariba district neighbouring the national park. Classified as Natural Region III and IV, average annual rainfall is around 790 mm, however it is very suitable for grain and cotton production.

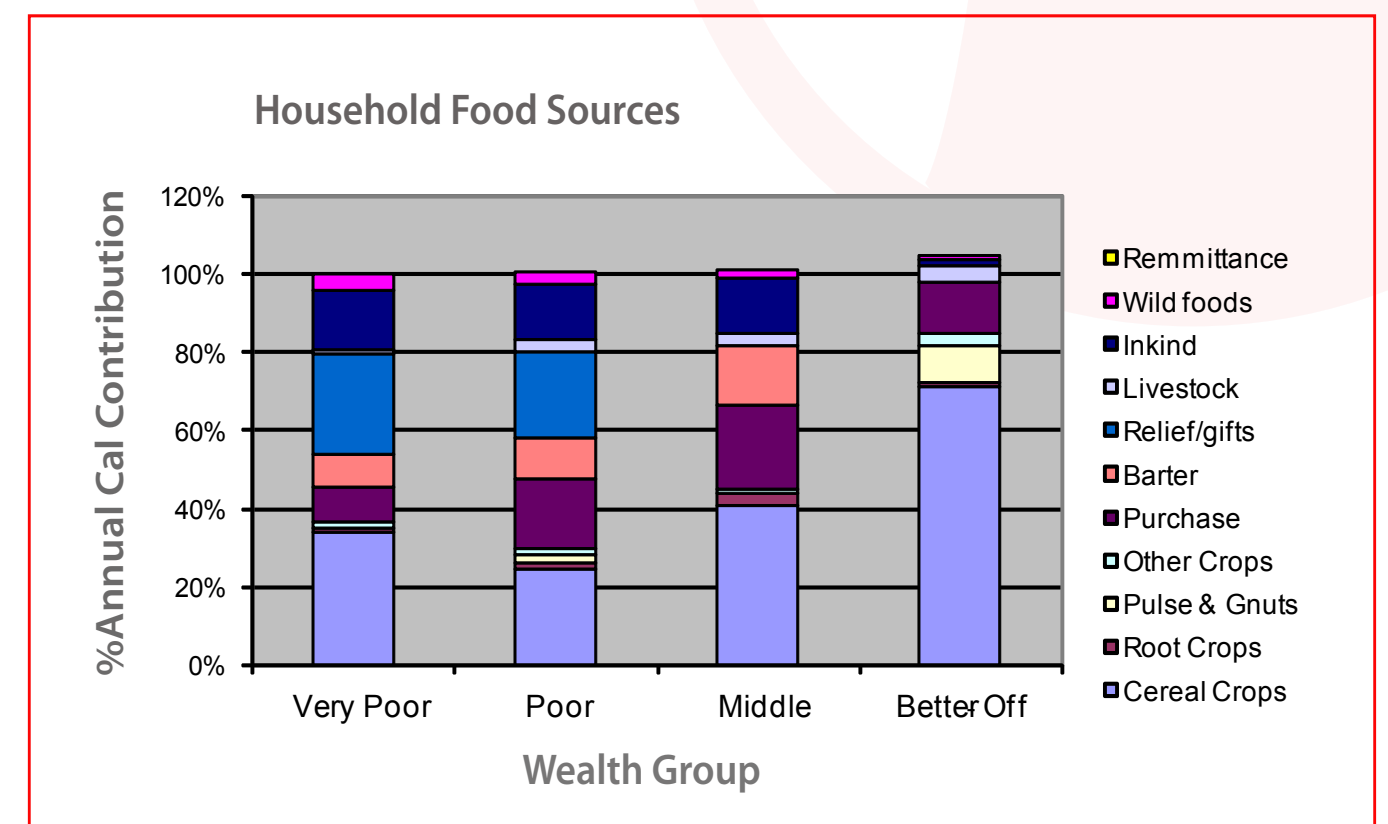
Access to Markets:

The main commodities are exchanged through Government parastatals. Alternative market is also operational, but on a small scale in areas such as Chinoyi and Kariba town.

Wealth Break Down

FEZ	Household Size	Land Area Cultivated	Cattle	Donkeys	Goats	Sheep	Poultry (Chicken, Guinea Fowl)
Very Poor	5--6=6	2/3	0	0	0-3	0	0-2
Poor	5--7=6	2/3	0-2	0	3/5	0	2/6
Middle	5--7=6	4/5	3/5	0-2	3/5	0	5/7
Better- Off	5--7=6	6/12	5/10	2/3	5/10	0	5--15

Summary of Food Sources:

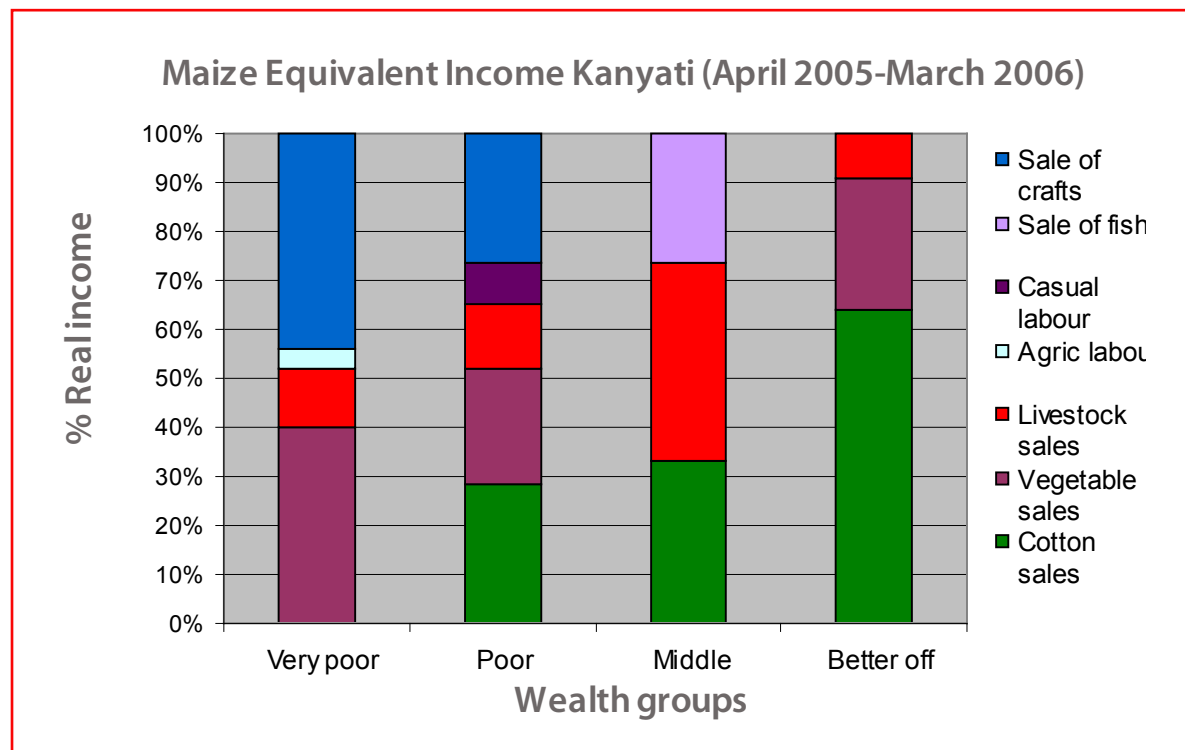


In normal years the poorest households meet more than 50% of their annual food needs through own crop production. The households supplement their food needs through market purchase, however the level of dependency varies among the poorer and relatively "better-off" households. Purchase of food items also varies among the different categories of households.

Just like other FEZs, Kanyati high potential sub FEZ is not an exception to barter trade.

This is largely due to lack of basic commodities in the market and specific terms of trade set by private traders. Other household sources of food include relief food aid, although not as a life saving intervention .

Summary of Income Sources:

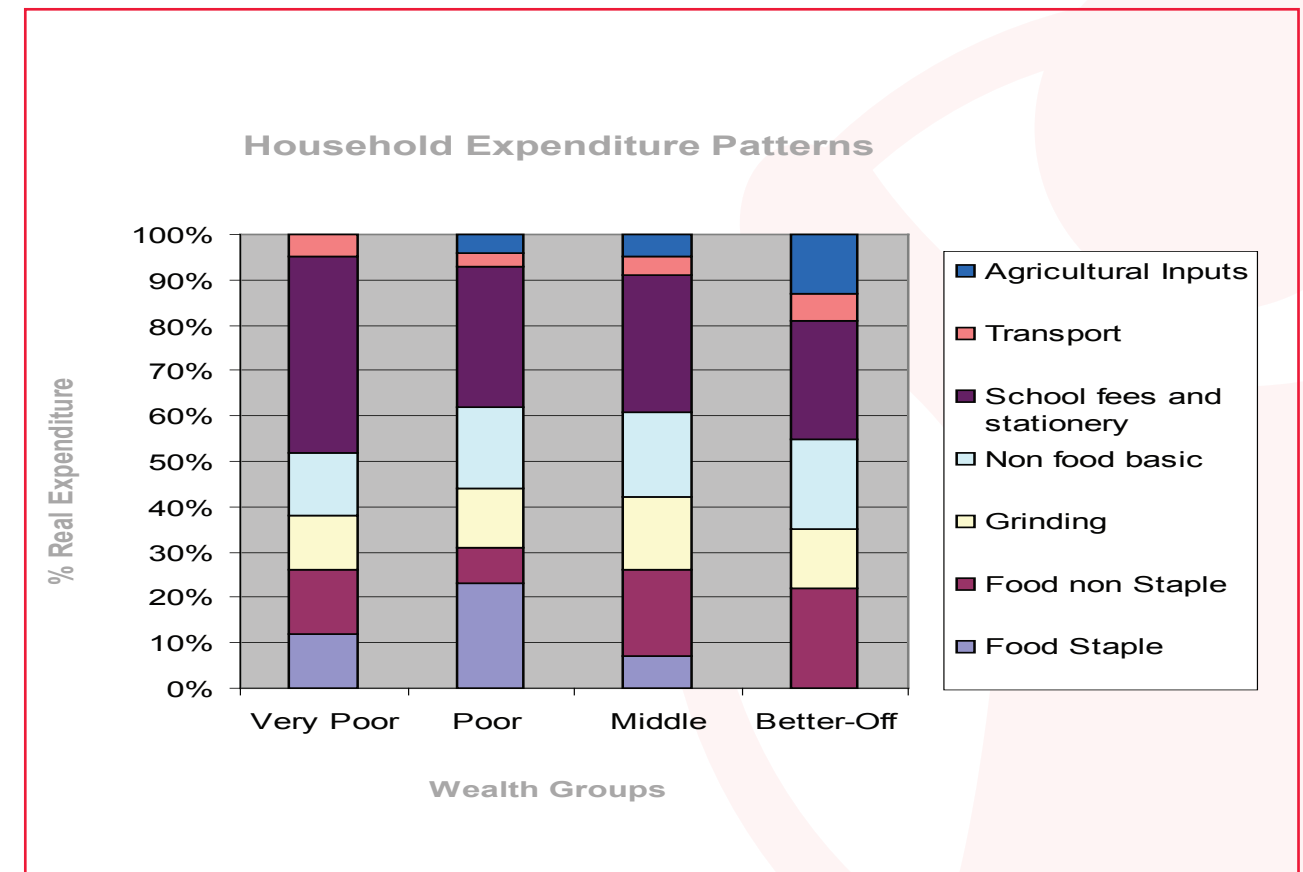


Kanyati FEZ has diverse sources of household income compared with other FEZs in the Zambezi Valley. The diversification is more visible among the poorer than “better-off” households. “Better off” households are more dependent on cotton, vegetable and small livestock sales compared with casual labour, local crafts and other forms of petty trade among poorer households.

Summary of Expenditure Patterns

The expenditure patterns in Kanyati High Potential Cotton Production FEZ also vary according to wealth groups. Overall the four wealth groups spend less on staple foods compared with the other neighbouring zones such as the Agro-Fisheries FEZ. The poorer households have the highest expenditure on staple food items. Meanwhile “middle” and “better off” are able to meet much of their annual staple food requirements through own crop harvest. However, this category of households spend a lot of income on basic social services such as education. Other items which cost so much include agricultural inputs such as cotton seeds, fertilizer and pesticides particularly among the cotton producing farmers.

Graph- Summary of Expenditure.



Hazards:

Chronic hazards: Proximity to Mana Pools and Matusadona National Parks has resulted into livestock diseases such as Nagana among cattle and trypanosomiasis among humans.

Periodic hazards: Dry spells and drought, animal crop destruction among others.

Response Strategies:

1. Local migration in search of agricultural work.
2. Increased disposal of productive assets such as small livestock

Indicators of Imminent Crisis:

Months	Early Warning Indicators
November-February	Above average rainfall (< 600mm) per annum, resulting into yellow crop appearance
February	Premature consumption of green maize
November-February	High prevalence of crop pests and livestock diseases

Conclusions and Implications:

The population in this area require support with fishing equipment unavailable in the market and improvement of the processing and market facilities.

The agro fisheries zone is part of agro ecological natural region V. It is unsuitable for crop production. Situated in a designated wildlife area of Nyaminyami rural district, the FEZ is in the middle of a larger wildlife reserve. The different parts of the zone are linked with the rest of the district through marrum roads. These roads are the life line of the population with traders in the rest of the country. The extreme remoteness of the FEZ, makes it difficult to effectively police the area, as such it has also become a hub for criminal activities.

The main form of trade in this FEZ is bartering of fish with grain, vegetables and other basic household items such as salt, sugar, soap and cooking oil among others. The closest market is Kariba town. However lake Kariba also links the fisher men with other potential markets in Zambia. As a result of the limited livelihood options extreme poverty is at its peak. The area is served by one combined primary and secondary school.

Some of the poorer in these categories do have fishing equipment, but are unable to use them due to lack of adequate human, fiscal and physical capital.

The lack of fish cooperative groups in these areas has affected bargaining power of the fisher men.

FEZ		Household Size	Land Area Cultivated	Cattle	Donkeys	Goats	Sheep	Poultry (Chicken, Guinea Fowl)
Very Poor	<div><div></div></div> 25	5	0.5-1	0	0	0-2	0	0-3
Poor	<div><div></div></div> 40	5--7=6	1	0	0	0-2	0	0-3
Middle	<div><div></div></div> 20	6	1	0	0	0-4	0	2/5
Better- Off	<div><div></div></div> 15	6	1	0	0	6+	0	4/6
0100Prevalence (%)								

Household Food Sources

%Annual Cal Contribution

Wealth Groups

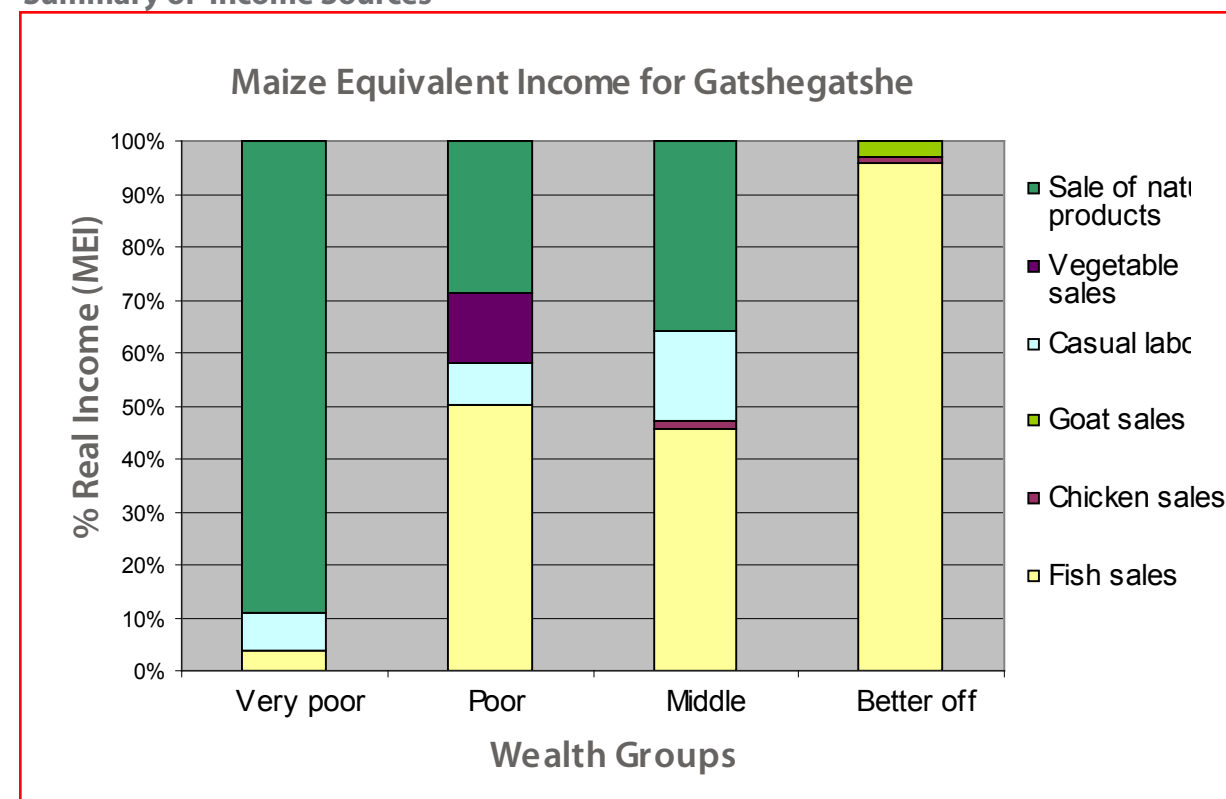
Very Poor Poor Middle Better Off

Legend:

- Remittance
- Wild foods
- Inkind
- Livestock
- Relief/gifts
- Barter
- Purchase
- Other Crops
- Pulse & Gnuts
- Root Crops
- Cereal Crops

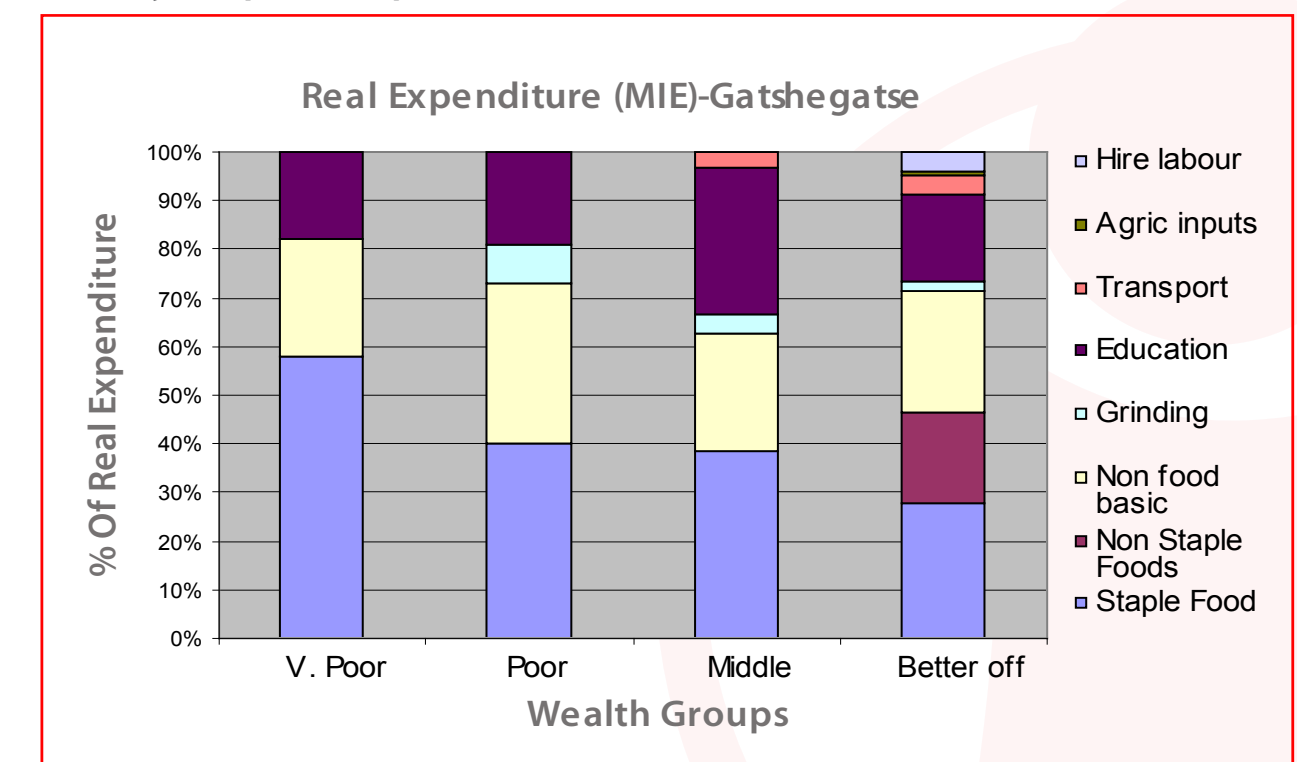
The poorer households normally fail to meet their minimum annual food needs. Its only relatively “better-off” households who break even in terms of overall survival needs within the FEZ. The main source of food in the FEZ is direct purchase using cash or barter trade. The only staple cereal crop grown in the FEZ is maize. Unlike neighbouring Kanyati area, own crop production contributes the least amount of annual food needs among the population. Small livestock, labour exchange and relief food aid are the other sources of food used by the population to supplement their annual food needs. The single major problem in the agro-fisheries FEZ is unreliable transport exacerbated by poor feeder roads, lack of fuel and very old public transport fleets.

Summary of Income Sources



The prime source of income in the FEZ is sale of fish. However this is constrained by lack of proper and organized marketing and processing facilities. Much of the fish is sold to consumers and private traders outside the FEZ. Lack of an organized local co-operative group has made it difficult for fishermen to develop collective bargaining power aimed at high profits. The fishing sector is also controlled by the district Department of Wildlife, which has only awarded permits to few fishermen. Most of whom are the “middle” and “better off” households. The “poorer” households are hired by permit holders and normally paid in kind for their services.

Summary of Expenditure patterns:



The entire population depends on market purchase of both staple and non staple foods for their food needs. The poorer households spend less on food compared with “middle” and “better-off” households. Much of poorer households grain is bartered compared with cash purchase among other groups. Similar to other FEZs, some “better-off” households in the agro fisheries areas also purchase non staple foods like cooking oil, sugar and meat among others.

All categories of wealth groups prioritise grinding costs, although the quantities vary among wealth groups. However some poorer households normally opt to pound, whenever cost of grinding rises beyond their income level. Most transport costs are incurred by the “middle” and the “better off” households.

Hazards:

Chronic hazards: Fishing and wild life related attacks causing disability among the population.

Periodic hazards: Malaria and seasonal cholera out breaks in the area.

Response Strategies:

1. Local migration in search of agricultural work and increased poaching of wild animals

Indicators of Imminent Crisis:

Months	Early Warning Indicators
June/July	Unfair terms of trade skewed infavour of grain traders than fishermen.
March-July	High level of water, reducingintensity of fishing activities

Greater Northern Gokwe High Cotton Producing Communal FEZ

Conclusions and Implications:

Livelihoods success in this zone depends on rain fed cultivation. A household's capacity to produce enough to meet its food needs is a general determinant of social status. Poorer farming household's at least produce above 40% of their food needs and hence supplement their food needs with purchase, labour exchange and during some years relief food aid. The market dependence has exposed them to persistent, unfavourable price fluctuations. Household purchasing power is extremely low, since local wages and other sources of income no longer keep pace with staple food price increases.

Some sections of the population in this zone require both preventive and promotive social protection strategies (crop insurance and more input support) to avoid low production and any further slide into situations of hunger and extreme poverty.

Zone Description:

This zone lies in the north of the country and is well known for being one of the most productive in the country. It spreads across parts of five districts namely Gokwe South, Gokwe North, Kariba, Hurungwe and Makonde. Classified as Natural Region IV, average annual rainfall is around 790 mm. Despite its dry, hot climate and relatively low water table, in normal years this zone supplies neighboring zones with staple grain. Livelihoods are primarily agricultural, centered on growing rain fed maize, sorghum for food and cotton for cash.

Access to Markets:

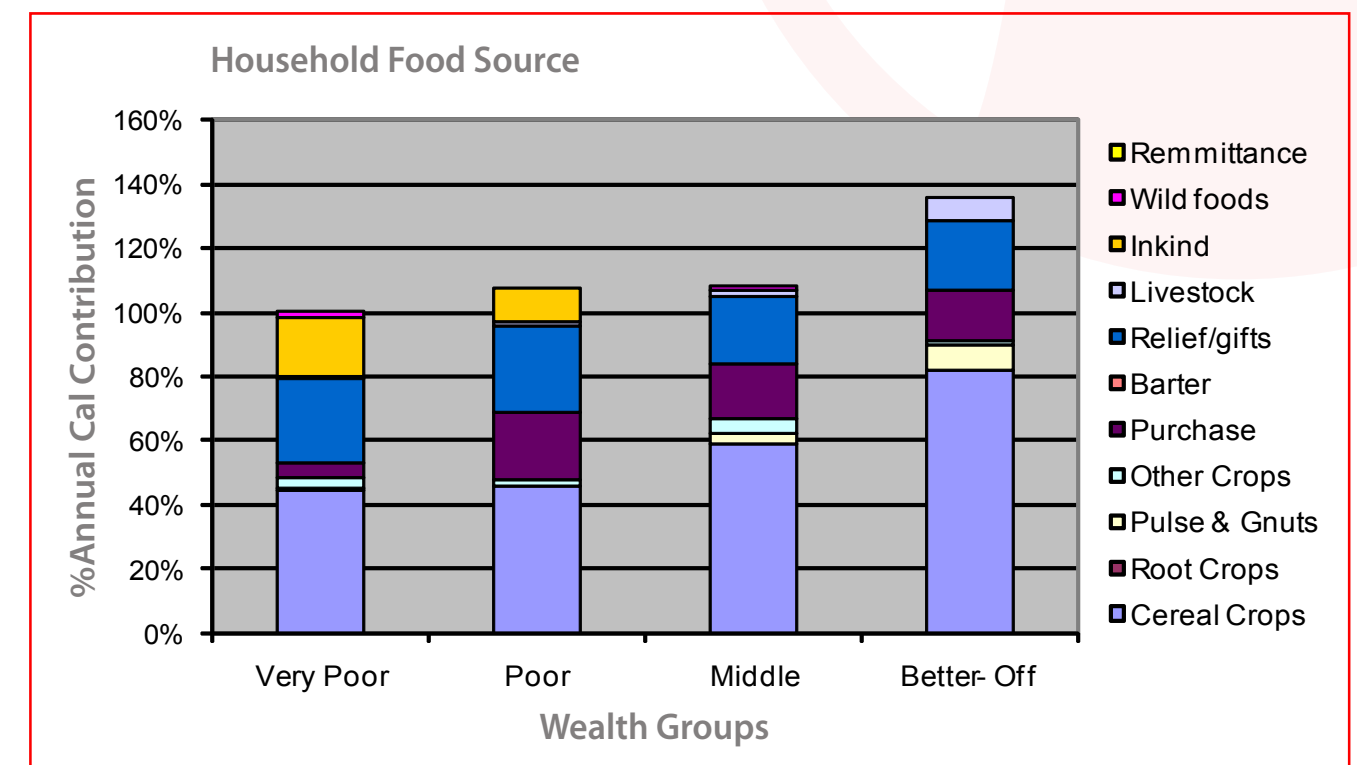
Cereals are exchanged through Government parastatals. Cotton is sold to the cotton companies (Cargill, Graftax, FSI Agricom and Cotco) in Chireya, Nembudziya, Manoti, Nemangwe and Tchoda. The cotton ginnery at Gokwe centre also purchases from the farmers. Cotton arrives at these depots via a network of cotton collection points which exist at most business centers throughout the zone. The same urban centers also act as a focus for selling animals, which are also sold to local butcheries and beef clubs. Vegetables, groundnuts, thatch and beer are sold locally. The Chibuku Brewery in KweKwe purchases sorghum from local farmers, however due to droughts this has declined significantly. The main employment opportunities are local, although some house-

holds have a family member working in major urban centers mainly Harare but also Gokwe, Kadoma, Gweru, Bulawayo, KweKwe or in the mines. Gold panning occurs at Munyati, Sanyati and Kakwira. This practise has also significantly reduced due to the GoZ ban on panning.

Wealth Breakdowns

FEZ	Household Size	Land Area Cultivated	Cattle	Donkeys	Goats	Sheep	Poultry (Chicken, Guinea Fowl)
Poor	6	2--3	2--4	0--3	3--7	0	6--10
Middle	6	3--6	5--9	2--4	6--12	0	10--15
Better-Off	7	6--10= 8	10--15	4--6	10--15	0	15-30

Summary of Food Sources:



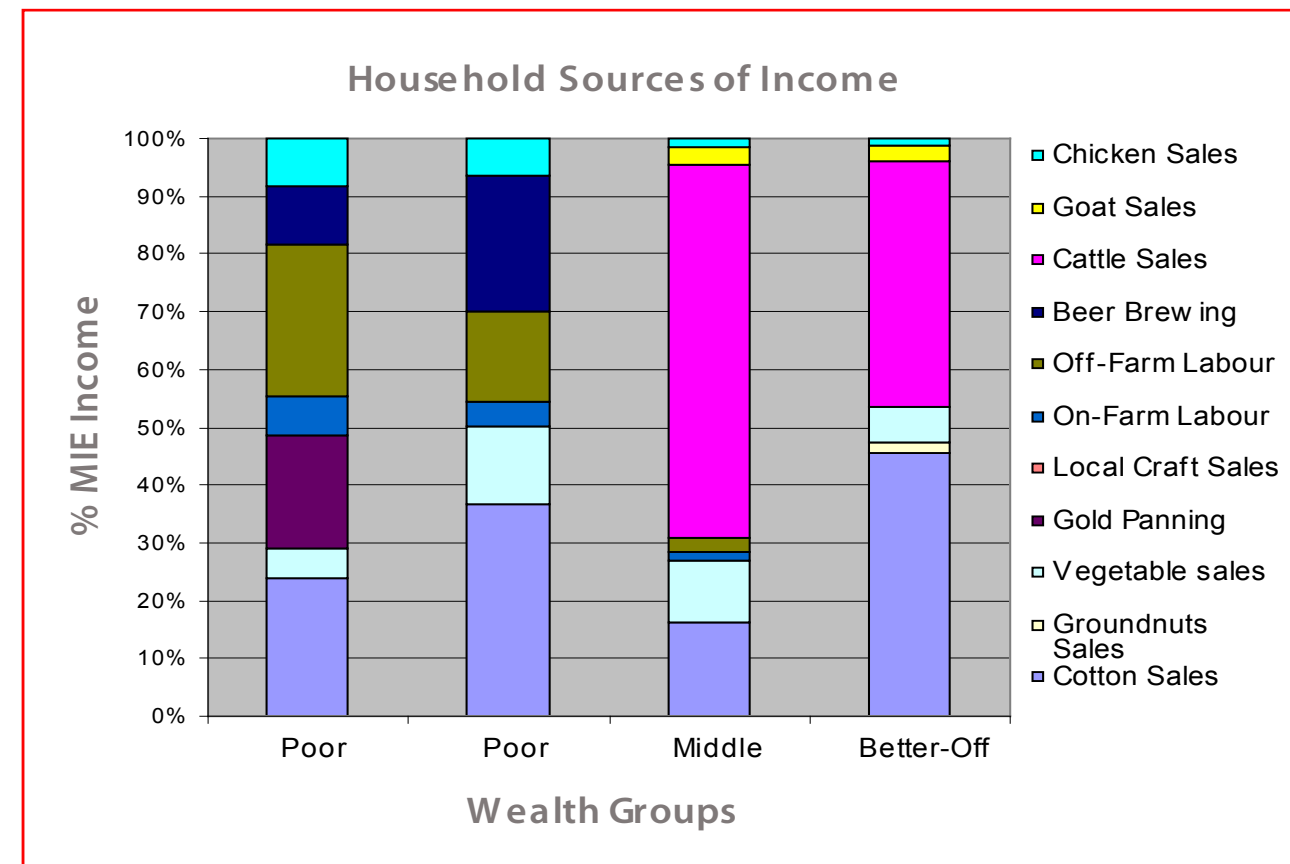
The main crops consumed in the FEZ are staple cereals such as millet, maize and sorghum. The poorer households derive the least amount of annual food needs from own crops compared with other wealth groups. Consumption of livestock products is not typical among all wealth groups, as shown by low calorific contribution across all wealth groups.

Purchase of food items with cash is a major source of food for all wealth groups in the FEZ.

The main food items purchased include maize grain mainly in the alternative market, cooking oil, sugar and salt. Relief food aid is normally used to supplement household sources of food in the Northern Gokwe FEZ. Over the past five years, gifts have significantly reduced as a supplementary household source of food due to the declining economy affecting all people.

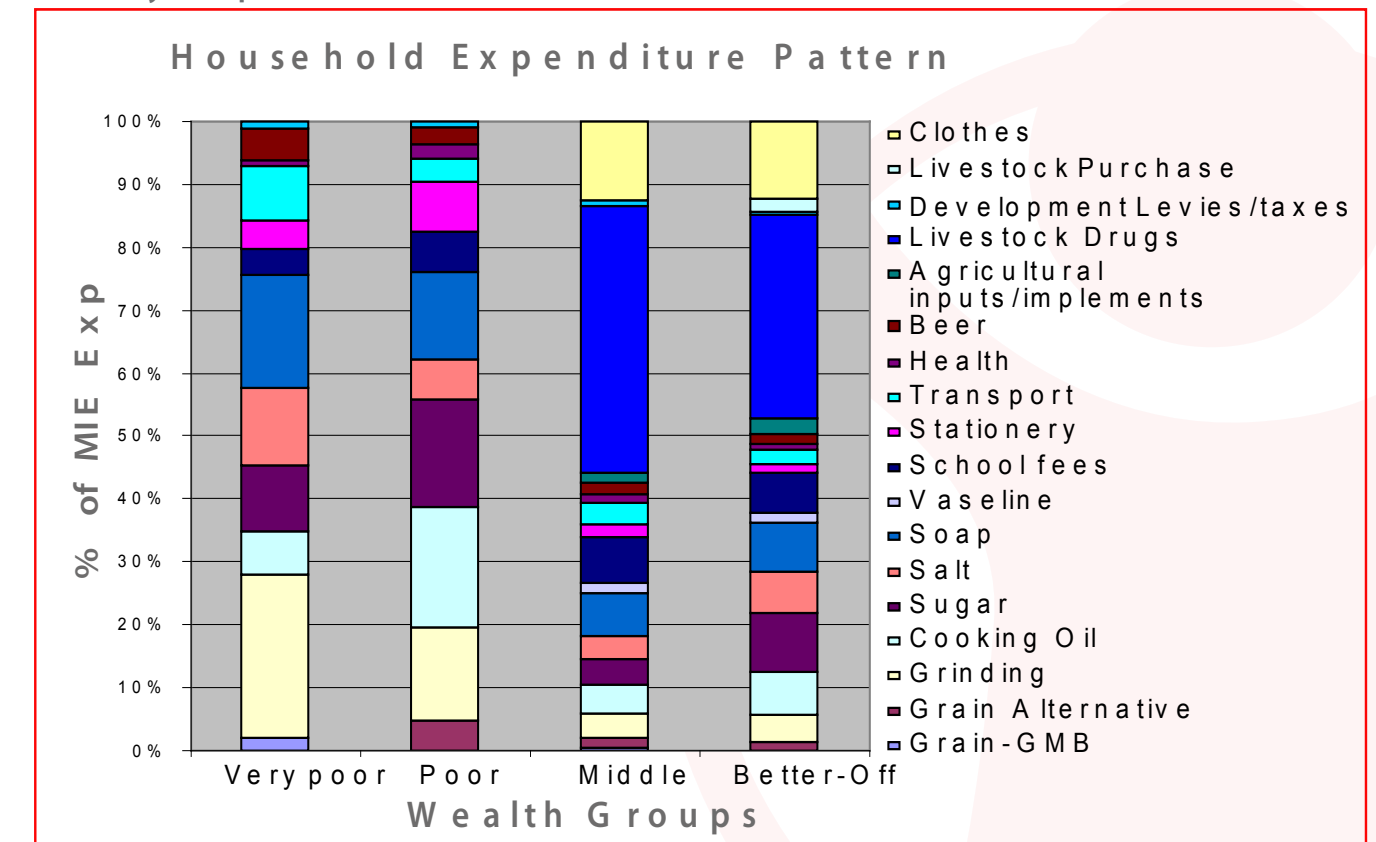
Wild foods are also consumed to supplement food needs.

Summary of Income Sources:



The population in Northern Gokwe FEZ also have diverse sources of cash income. Diversification of sources of cash income is equally varied across the various wealth groups. Similar to the plateau "middle" and "better-off" households are more self sufficient and have sustainable sources of cash income compared with the poorer households. Cotton production plays a crucial role for the local economy in the GNGHCPC FEZ. The main food crop sold within the FEZ is vegetables and grain. Most of the vegetables are mainly produced in the month of April to September, before the onset of actual dry spell months. Vegetable production for sale was mainly carried out by poorer and "middle" households. The wealth groups in this FEZ have slightly more livestock than neighboring zones. In particular, there is a greater investment in dairy farming. Other income generating activities include local employment, gold panning and sale of local handicrafts.

Summary of Expenditure Patterns:



The main expenditure patterns cover staple foods such as cereals purchased from GMB and alternative markets. Major non staple items purchased across all wealth groups includes salt, soap, sugar and cooking oil. Meanwhile discretionary income covered purchase of agricultural inputs, payment for casual labour and transport costs among the upper socio-economic groups.

Hazards:

Chronic hazards: These include drought, livestock diseases and low prices for cotton and other local products.

Periodic Hazards: Seasonal out break of Cholera.

Response Strategies:

1. Increased consumption of wild foods
2. Increased search of agricultural work.
3. Increased disposal of productive assets

Indicators of Imminent Crisis:

Months	Early Warning Indicators
February	Failed cereal crops
March	Significant reduction in maize yields
June/July	Unfair terms of trade for grain with small livestock
May/June	Decrease in yields of cotton & low prices
November/January	High prevalence of crop pests and livestock diseases

Lusulu Lupane Southern Gokwe Plateau Mixed Agriculture FEZ:

Main Conclusions and Implications:

This zone is among the most favorable for agricultural production in the country. It is characterised by surplus grain production. The people's livelihoods are centered around maize and cotton cultivation. Animal husbandry supplements the food and cash income. The zone also has a well diversified cropping pattern, which includes sweet potato production. Poorer households, additionally take on local jobs to earn much needed cash when food stocks run low. Over 90% of households in the zone are able to meet their annual food needs during good years. Main income sources across all wealth groups include sale of food crops, livestock, fruits and vegetables as well as some wild foods. The population in the zone require more crop insurance in form of agricultural inputs and veterinary drugs unavailable in the market. This should be complemented with infrastructure development particularly water and sanitation components as well as change of national grain marketing policies.

Zone Description:

The Southern Gokwe Plateau is a sub zone within the broader Lusulu, Lupane and Southern Gokwe Mixed Agriculture FEZ. It is traditionally a high agricultural productive and self sufficient area in Gokwe South district. As a result it is relatively more food secure than the other two FEZs in Gokwe region with all wealth groups meeting more than 80% of their minimum annual food entitlement through own crop production. Other sources of food are market purchase, relief food aid and labour exchange particularly among the poorer households. The main challenge in this zone is grain movement and dwindling purchasing power among the lower wealth groups.

Rainfall is fairly reliable and averages 450-800 mm per year. In normal years, agriculture is relatively successful; the zone is traditionally known as a cereal surplus producing area.

Access to Markets:

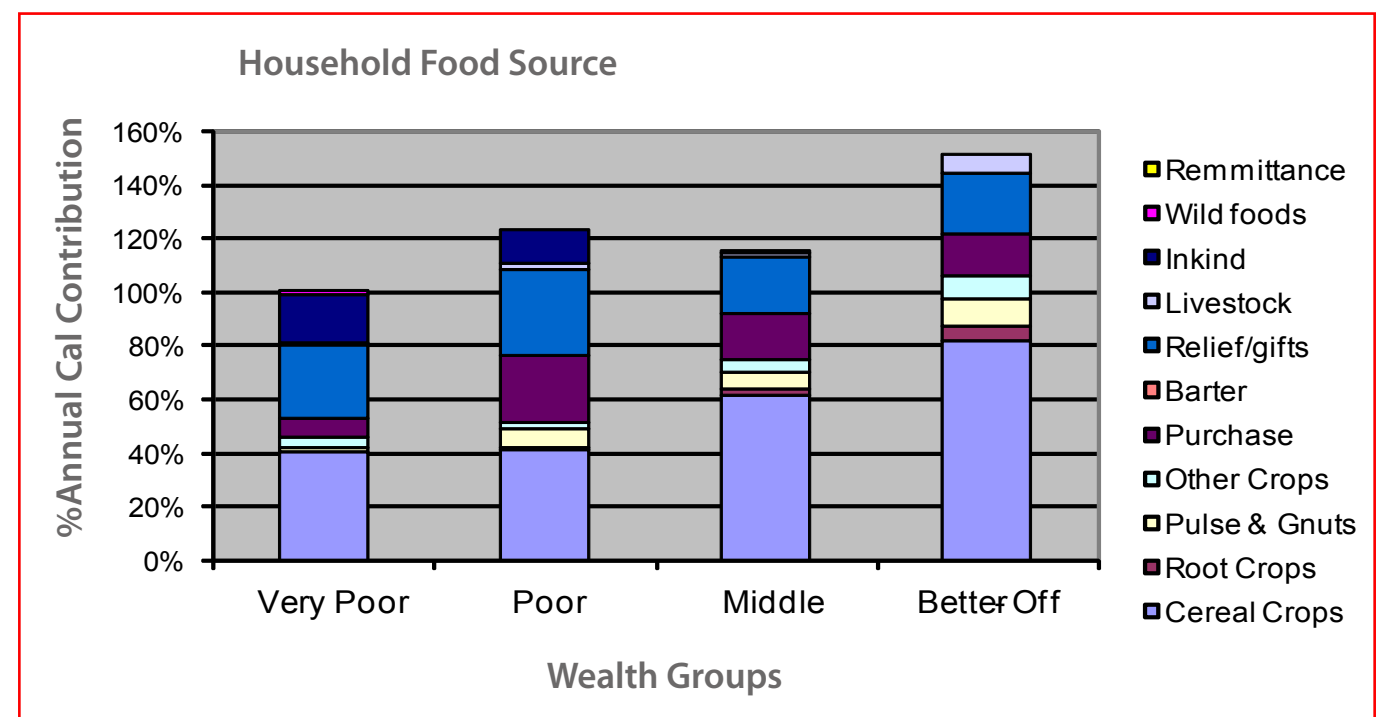
Despite good conditions for agriculture, infrastructure in this part of Zimbabwe is poor. Hence marketing of goods is difficult and the prices received by farmers are low.

The main cereal exchange occurs through the GMB, which has outlets in Gokwe, Kadoma, Lusulu and Bulawayo. Livestock are sold to local butchers, to the abattoir in KweKwe or the Cold Storage Commission in Bulawayo and KweKwe. For both cereals and animals, rural producers sell to middle men who come to the villages. People mostly find employment locally, such as on the irrigated ARDA schemes. Some people travel further to areas such as Hwange or Victoria Falls, and more rarely to Botswana or South Africa.

Wealth BreakDown:

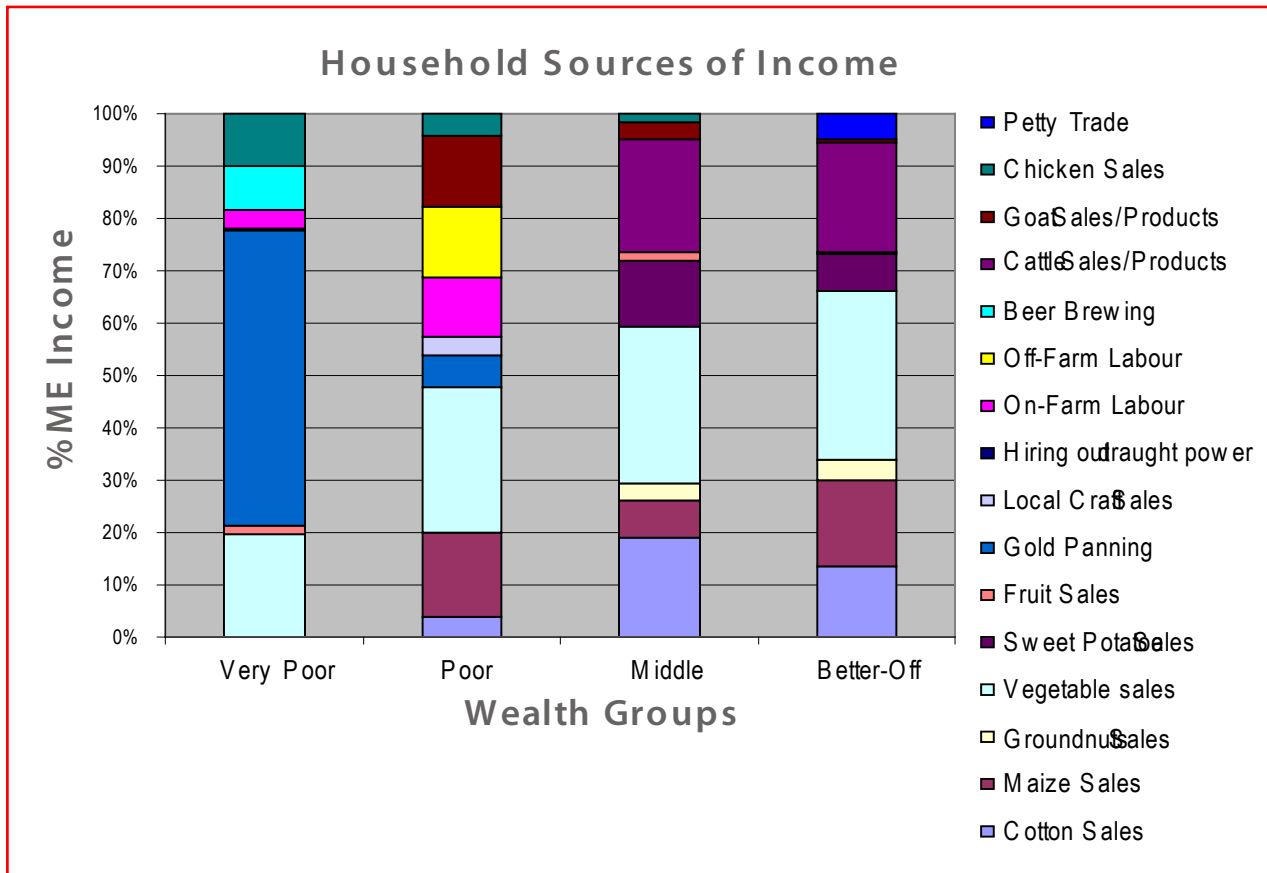
FEZ	Household Size	Land Area Cultivated	Cattle	Donkeys	Goats	Sheep	Poultry (Chicken, Guinea Fowl)
Very Poor	4	1/2	0-2	0	(0-1)	0	(5-10)
Poor	6	2/3	2/4	0	(1-3)	0	(10-15)
Middle	6	3/6	4/7	(0-2)	(3-6)	0-4	(15-20)
Better-Off	7	6/10	8-15	(2-4)	(5-10)	4/6	(15-20)

Summary of Food Sources:



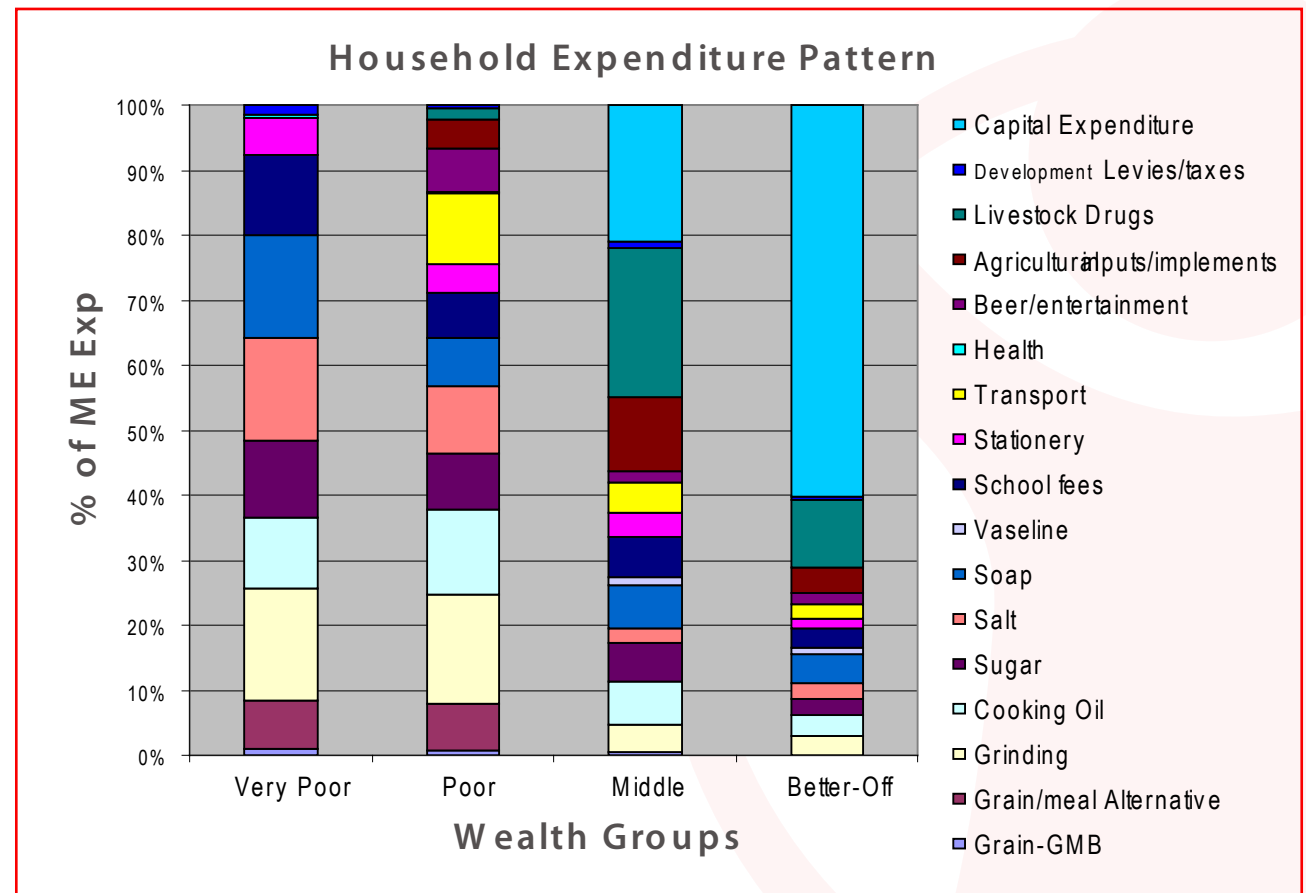
The main crops grown are maize, millet and sorghum. Own crop production is the major source of food with less reliance on relief food aid. All wealth groups produce surplus food for own consumption, supplemented with livestock products. Purchases are mainly non staple food items such as sugar and cooking oil.

Summary of Income:



Generally the Southern Gokwe Plateau FEZ also has very diverse sources of household income. The level of diversification is more among the poorer and “middle” households compared with the “better-off” households. Gold panning is also carried out in sites widely scattered throughout the FEZ. The zone also depends on cotton sales for income as well as sweet potatoes and groundnuts mainly sold by the “middle” and “better-off” households. Other sources of income include on and off-farm labour, beer brewing and local craft sales particularly among poorer households.

Summary of Expenditure Patterns:



The expenditure patterns among all socio-economic groups in the Southern Gokwe Plateau high potential cotton production FEZ is summarized into seven categories. Generally all wealth groups spend less of their income on staple foods compared with the neighbouring FEZs, although some poorer households spend their income on staple food items such as maize grain compared with “middle” and “better off” households. Other items on which most households spend their income include agricultural inputs such as cotton seeds, fertilizer and pesticides. However there is less expenditure on basic social services such as education. There is no expenditure on health care, due to the free health services provided by the Government of Zimbabwe.

Hazards:

Chronic hazards: These include drought, livestock diseases and low prices for cotton and other local products.

Periodic Hazards: Seasonal out break of Cholera .

Response Strategies:

- 1. Increased consumption of wild foods, increased search of agricultural work and Increased disposal of productive assets

Indicators of Imminent Crisis:

Months	Early Warning Indicators
February	Failed cereal crops
November /January	Above average rainfall (<750mm per annum), resulting into yellowish cereal crops
May/June	Significant reduction in maize yields
November/January	High prevalence of crop pests and livestock diseases

Lusulu Lupane Southern Gokwe Lowlands Mixed Agriculture FEZ:

Conclusions and Implications:

The Southern Gokwe lowlands is a sub zone within the broader Lusulu, Lupane and Southern Gokwe Mixed Agriculture FEZ. Agriculturally a low productive area in Gokwe South district, the main crops grown in this area are maize and cotton. Comparatively the FEZ has less livestock per household than the neighbouring Southern Gokwe plateau FEZ. This is attributed to the increasing rate of livestock diseases and lack of grazing land in the area. Majority of poorer households depend on vegetable sales and labour exchange for grain in the high productivity plateau FEZ. The population in the zone have also heavily relied on food aid in the past five years.

Zone Description:

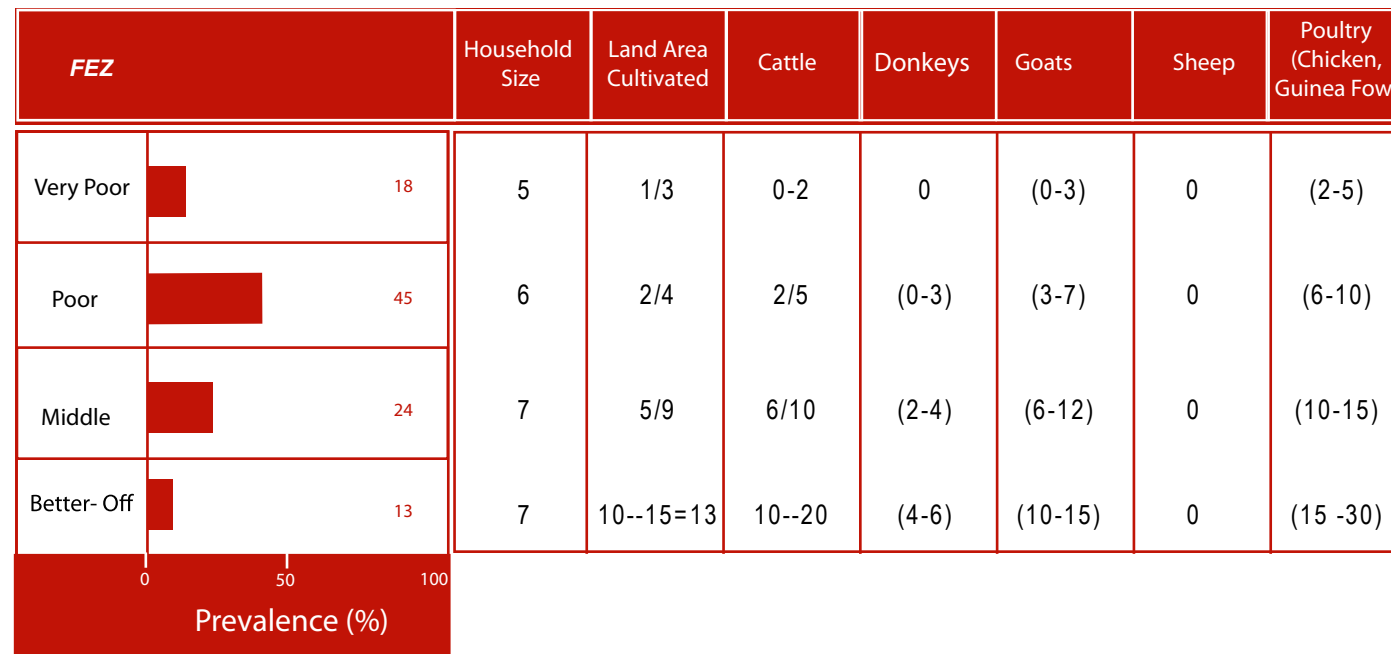
Traditionally the Southern Gokwe is a self sufficient FEZ. However over the past five years, this part of the Lusulu Lupane plateau has become a low agricultural productivity area mainly due to unpredictable climatic conditions. To date it is the most food insecure area among the sampled zones. It has similar rainfall pattern with the Zambezi Valley (average of 450-600mm per annum). Low agricultural productivity has been due to the following factors:

- Lack of adequate productive labour among poorer households.
- Breakdown in traditional family support systems, which formed the basis for provision of communal labour for agricultural production.
- Increased cost of cotton production over the last five years.

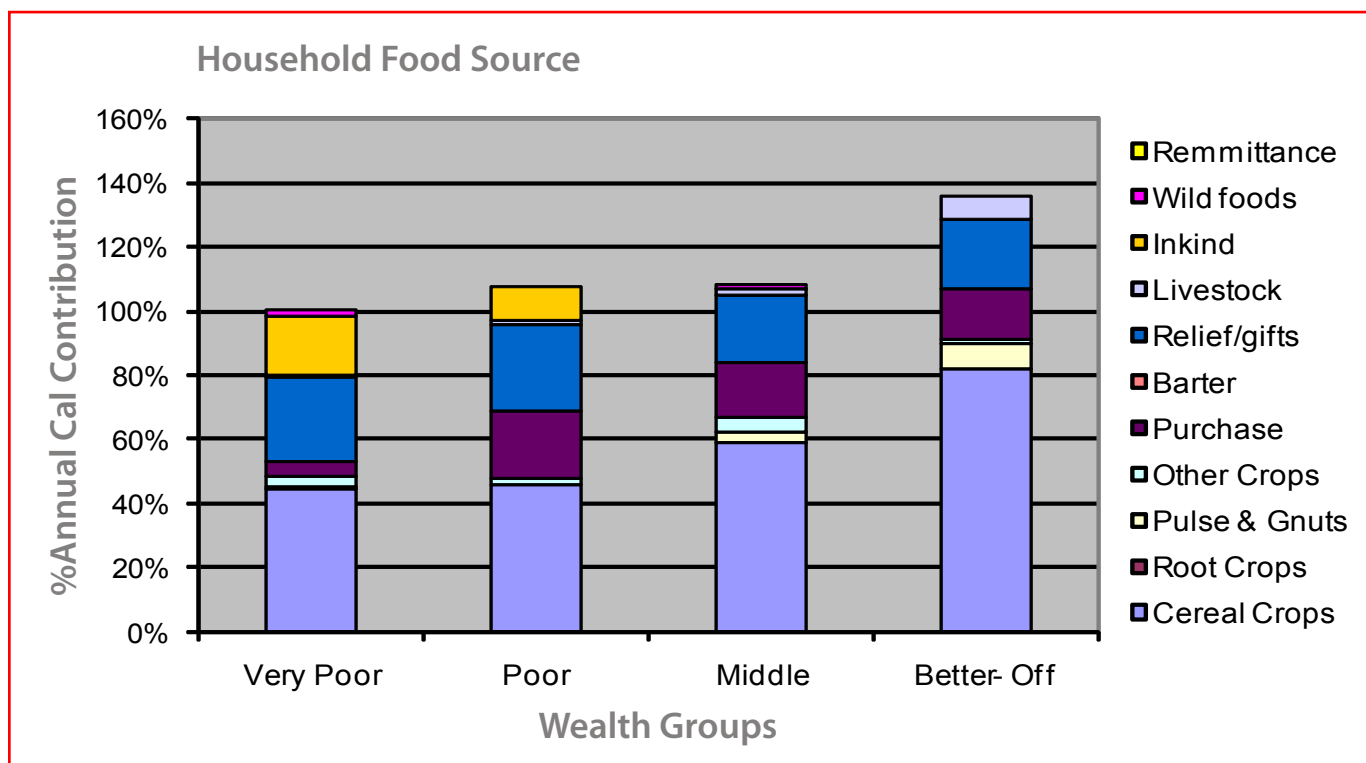
Access to Markets:

The FEZ is strategically located to tap Gokwe and other regional markets. However the population mainly depend on Gokwe to market most of their products, particularly vegetables and cotton. They also exchange their labour in the plateau areas for grain. Main constraints affecting marketing include low prices of local products, poor feeder roads and lack of public transport to remote parts of the FEZ.

Wealth Break Down

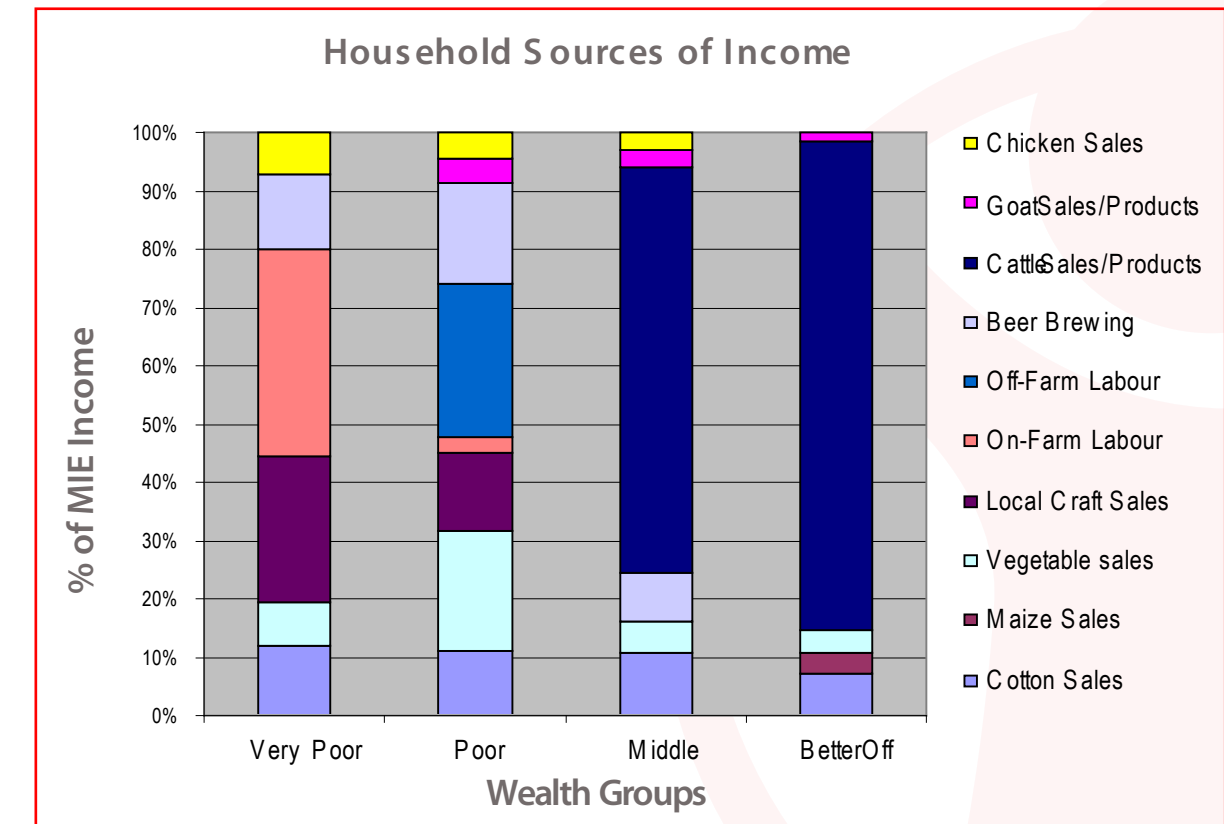


Summary of Food Sources:



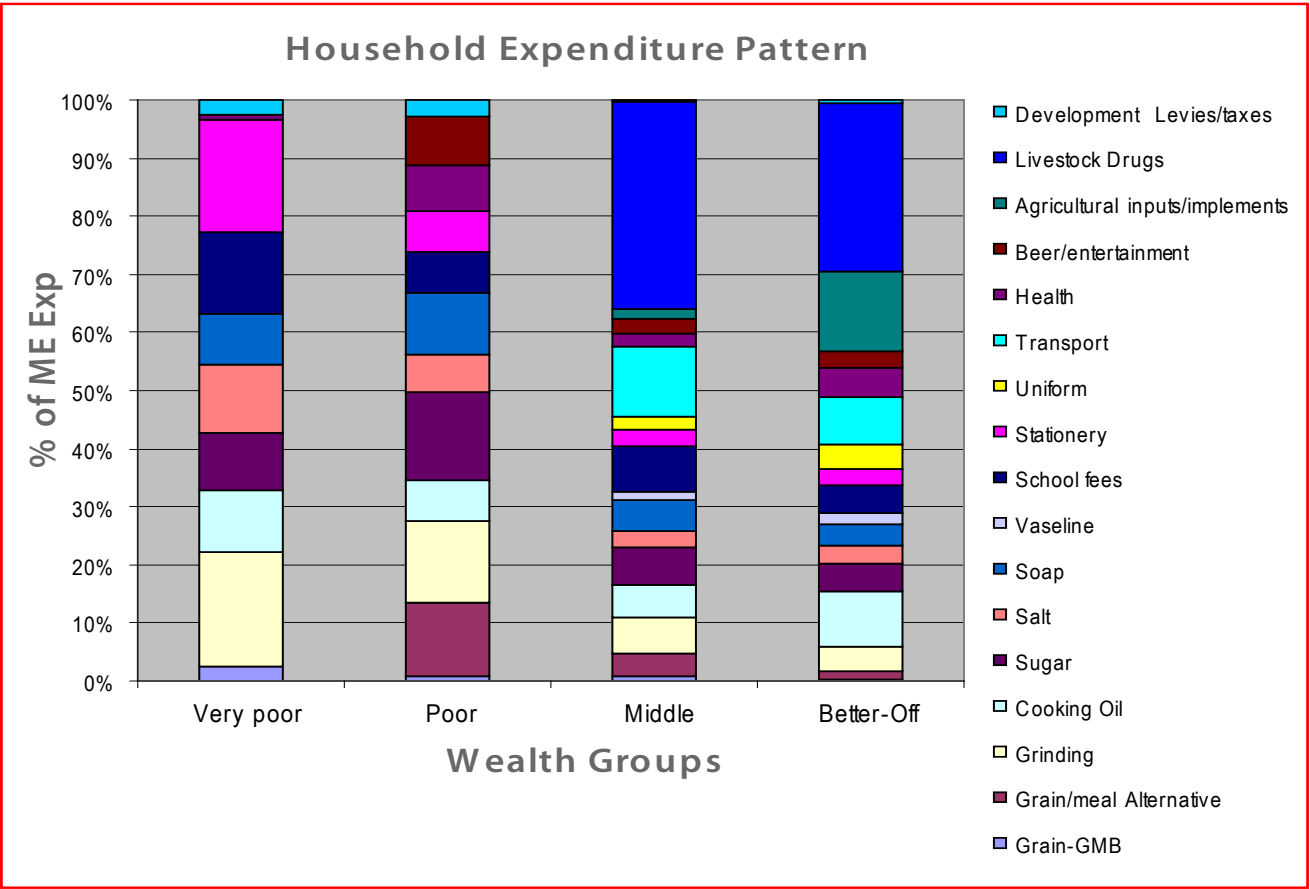
The FEZ is a food deficit area due to low agricultural production. Food crops normally last up to the month of August among the poorer households compared with month of October to December among the “middle” and “better-off” households. Main food crops include maize, sorghum and less preferred millet. Other sources of food include livestock products, market purchases particularly among the poorer households and wild foods.

Summary of Income Sources:



Main sources of cash income in this FEZ include sale of cotton, vegetables and maize grain among the “better-off” households. Agricultural casual labour also supplements the income of poorer households. However households in this area are relatively more poorer than those in the neighbouring Northern Gokwe and plateau areas.

Summary of Expenditure patterns:



The entire population in this FEZ spend a signifacnt amount of their income on staple items, particularly grain. The main difference is only the means of exchange . Poorer households prefer bartering of small livestock with grain compared with purchase using cash among the relatively “better-off” households in the FEZ. Other forms of expenditure include non staple such as salt and soap among “ better-off’ with non typical discretionery expenditure.

Hazards:

Chronic hazards: Drought, crop pests and livestock diseases which directly affect agricultural production.

Periodic hazards: These include seasonal out of cholera and elephant crop destruction, limiting agricultural productivity.

Response Strategies:

1. Local migration in search of agricultural work.
2. Increased disposal of productive assets such as small livestock
3. Increased consumption of wild foods

Indicators of Imminent Crisis:

Months	Early Warning Indicators
February	Failed cereal crops
November /January	Above average rainfall (<750mm per annum), resulting into yellowish cereal crops
May/June	Significant reduction in maize yields
November/January	High prevalence of crop pests and livestock diseases

Greater Mudzi Communal FEZ

Conclusions and Implications:

This lowveld zone is characterized by extensive rain-fed maize production supplemented by income earned through cotton production, gold panning, cross border trade and employment. Livelihood success largely depends on having sufficient land holdings and labor capacity. Better off households meet most of their food needs through own crop production; in this area the main crops are maize, small grains, sunflower and cotton. Poorer households by contrast cannot make ends meet from farming alone.

Hence a diverse mix of income sources including employment, cross border trade and gold panning is the key to their food security.

The population in this zone require all forms of social protection interventions (predictable transfers, social insurance such as agricultural inputs, small livestock and micro employment opportunities for income).

Zone Description:

This zone is situated in the north east corner of Zimbabwe, on the border with Mozambique. It includes the communal lands of Mkota, Ngarwe, Mudzi, Chikwizo, North-Eastern Mutoko, Nyanga North, Western Matzi, Eastern St. Swithins, Central Zimbiti, Tanda, Chikore, Chimanda and Masoso. This is classified as lowland in Natural Region IV and has a variable average annual rainfall under 700 mm. The zone is transected by a major tarmac road connecting Harare to Mozambique and Malawi, which facilitates trade and exchange. The Mudzi, Rwenya and Nyamusanzara Rivers pass through the zone, providing opportunities for some fishing and gold panning. Meanwhile the Makaha/Benson Mine provides some employment opportunities, in addition to the better off farmers within the villages who employ people to work in their fields.

Access to Markets:

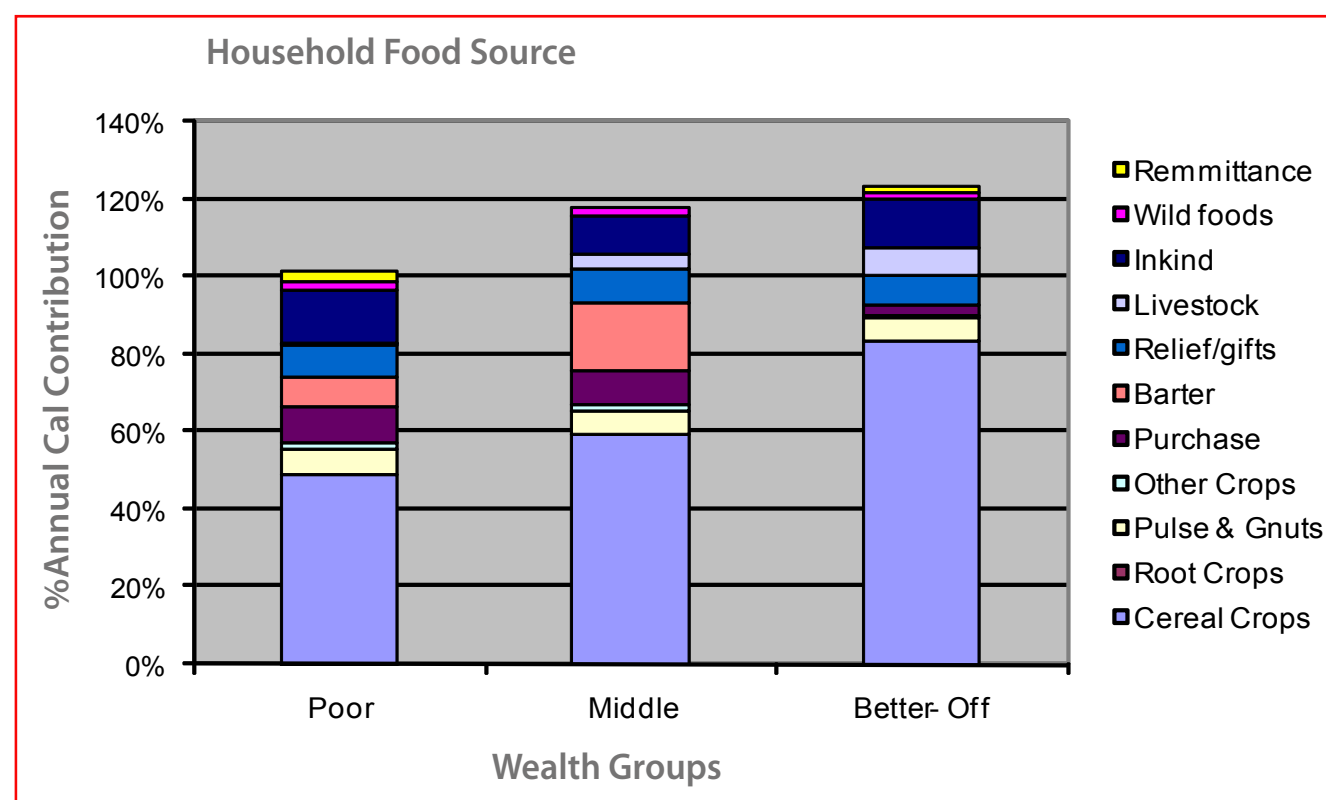
The main commodities produced within the zone are sold through private traders or directly to the GMB or Cotton Company of Zimbabwe, both of which are low priced Government parastatals. Cereals are imported into the zone from Mutoko and Murewa which tend to have higher productivity levels, and sold through local stores. Cattle and goats are usually sold at local livestock pens

where they are bought by agents looking for animals to take to the butcheries and abattoirs in Harare. There is also cross border exchange with Mozambique for non agricultural produce (e.g., canned beer is sold from Zimbabwe and soap from Mozambique). This exchange is not limited to households from within the zone; there is a major border crossing point between the two countries at Nyamapanda, and people from many other parts of Zimbabwe travel across at that point. Local labor opportunities include nearby commercial and larger communal farms as well as the Makaha/Benson Mine. Outside of the zone, Harare is the main urban labor market but some people go as far as Mutare regional markets.

FEZ	Household Size	Land Area Cultivated	Cattle	Donkeys	Goats	Sheep	Poultry (Chicken, Guinea Fowl)
Very Poor	5	0.5-2	(0	0	(0-2)	0	(0-3)
Poor	6	2/4	(0-3)	(0-2)	(2-5)	0	(2-5)
Middle	6	5/8	(2-5)	(2-4)	(4-10)	0-4	(5-15)
Better- Off	7	5--15=10	(5 -15)	(2-8)	(10-20)	4/6	(10 -20)

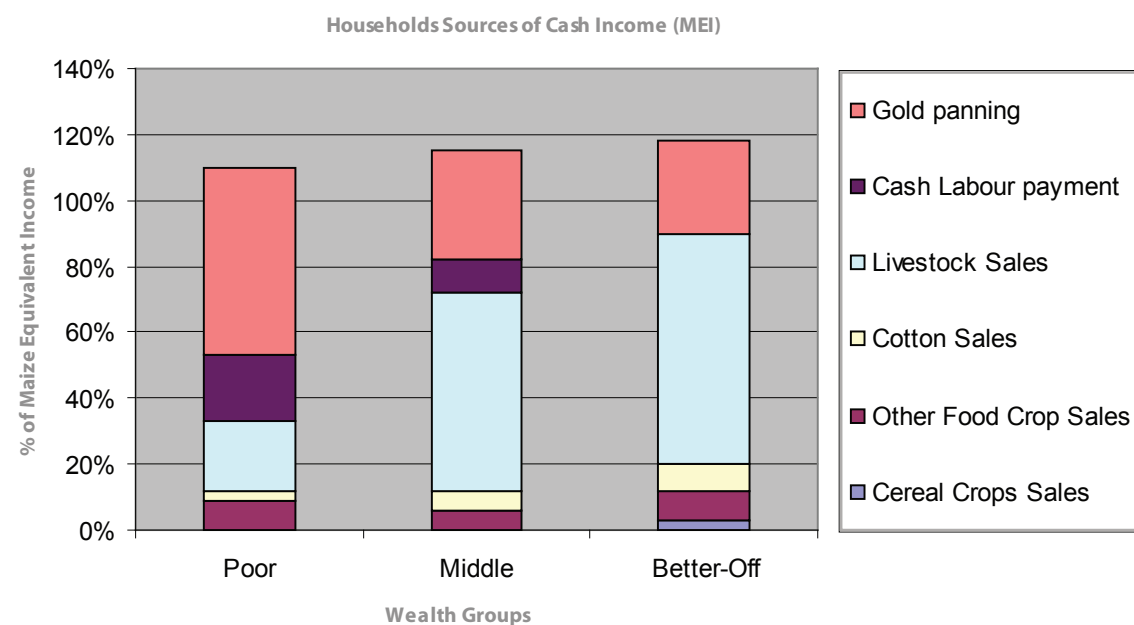
Prevalence (%)

Summary of Food Sources



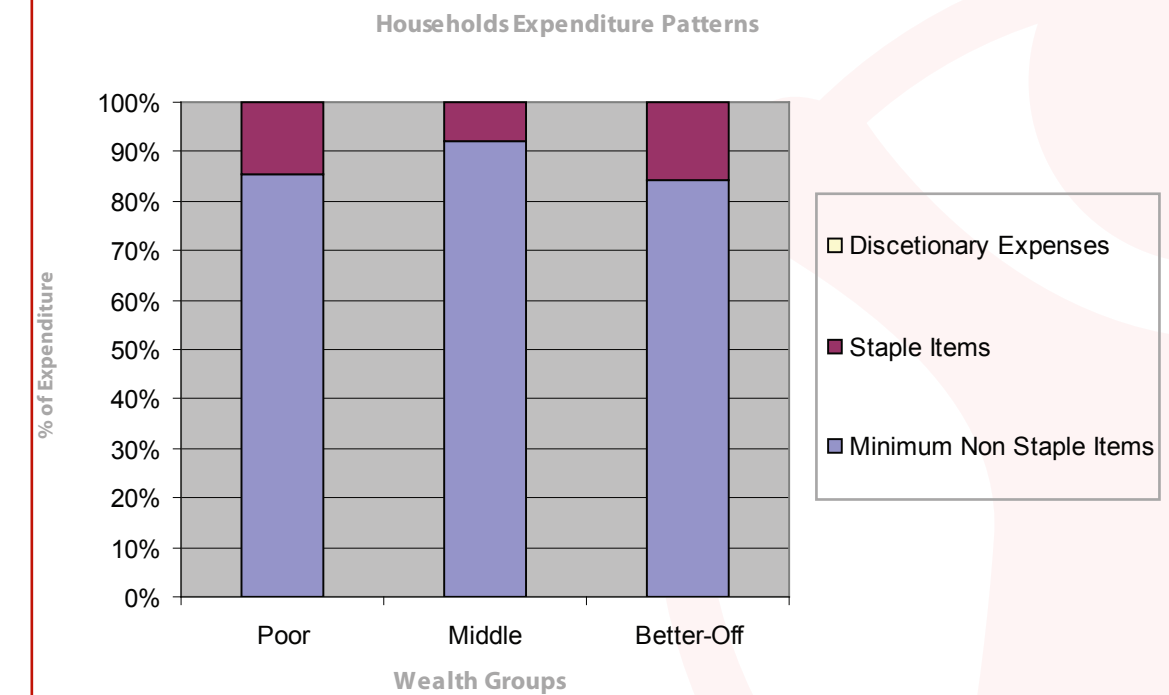
Overall the Greater Mudzi communal FEZ is a relatively self sufficient FEZ during normal years with surplus food production for consumption. Main food crops include staple cereals such as sorghum, millet and maize. Other crops consumed include pulses and legumes such as ground-nuts. The household diet is supplemented with root crops such as sweet potatoes and livestock products like chicken, goats and some cattle milk among the relatively “better-off” households. Purchase of staple cereals is also common among the poorer households with less production and non staple items such as sugar and cooking oil is more significant among the “better-off” households. Other household sources of food include in-kind payments for labour, relief food aid, wild foods and local gifts/ external remittances from relatives in neighbouring countries such as Mozambique.

Summary of Income Sources



Generally households in the Greater Mudzi Communal FEZ have diversified sources of income. This only varies among wealth groups. The poorer households mainly engage in on and off casual labour, gold panning, beer brewing compared with sale of food and cash crops such as cotton among “middle” and “better-off” households.

Summary of Expenditure Patterns



The purchase of minimum non staple items also varies among wealth groups. The main staple items purchased by all wealth groups include salt, soap, vaseline, grinding costs, school fees and uniform, stationery, health care costs and development levies. Sugar and cooking oil are mainly purchased by the “middle” and “better-off” households.

Staple items such as cereals and pulses are mainly purchased by the poorer households to supplement their deficit from production.

Other forms of discretionary expenditure covering clothes, kerosene, candles and matches, beer, tobacco, transport and some agricultural inputs is no longer typical among all wealth groups.

Hazards:

Chronic hazards: Unpredictable long dry spells, which affect household capacity to produce and reduce hunger, livestock diseases causing loss of animals across the entire FEZ, cultural and religious beliefs prohibiting keeping of some animals such as pigs.

Periodic hazards: low farm gate prices.

Response Strategies:

- 1. Local migration in search of agricultural work.
- 2. Increased disposal of productive assets such as small livestock
- 3. Reduction in essential household expenditure
- 4. Increased consumption of wild foods

Indicators of Imminent Crisis:

Months	Early Warning Indicators
February	Failed cereal crops
November /January	Above average rainfall (<750mm per annum), resulting into yellowish cereal crops
May/June	Significant reduction in maize yields
November/January	High prevalence of crop pests and livestock diseases
February	Increased sale of livestock



Rural Livelihood Zone Summaries

-  International
-  Province
-  District

Livelihood Zone

-  0 Urban
-  1 A1 Prime
-  2 Agrofiseries
-  3 Beitbridge and South Western Lowveld Communal
-  4 Cattle and Cereals Farming with Game Ranching
-  5 Central and Northern Semi Intensive Farming
-  6 Eastern Highlands Farm Workers
-  7 Eastern Highlands Prime Communal
-  8 Eastern Kalahari Sandveld Communal
-  9 Greater Northern Gokwe High Cotton Producing Communal
-  10 Great Zimbabwe and Bikita Semi Intensive Communal
-  11 Greater Muzvi Communal
-  12 Highveld Prime Communal
-  13 Irrigated Commercial Sugar and Fruit Farming
-  14 Lusulu, Lupane and Southern Gokwe Mixed Agriculture
-  15 Masvingo Mutema Middleveld Communal
-  16 Matabeland Middleveld and Highveld Communal
-  17 Mutorashanga Informal Mining
-  18 Mwenezi, Central Chimvi and South Midlands Communal
-  19 Northern Zambezi Valley Communal
-  20 Poor Resource Kariba Valley and Karangwe Jambazi Communal
-  21 Save River Valley and Ndwandwe Communal
-  22 Sebebe and Nabin Low Cotton Communal
-  23 Western Kalahari Sandveld Communal
-  24 National Park

