

ZimVAC 2017 Rapid Rural Assessment

The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC), a consortium of Government and Development partners, undertook the 17th edition of the annual rural livelihoods assessment (RLA) across the eight rural provinces of Zimbabwe in May 2017. Guided by the Food and Nutrition Security Policy and ZimASSET (Food Security & Nutrition cluster), the consortium aims at ensuring a national integrated food and nutrition security information system that provides timely and reliable information on the food and nutrition security situation. ZimVAC is the central pillar around which the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) builds its strategy to fulfil the sixth commitment of the Government of Zimbabwe's Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP) and monitor implementation of the ZimASSET.

Assessment Purpose

The overall purpose of the 2017 Rural Livelihoods assessment was to provide an annual update on rural livelihoods for the purposes of informing policy formulation and programming appropriate interventions.



Some of the household questionnaires awaiting data entry

Broad Objectives

The 2017 ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment was conducted with the broad objective of assessing the prevailing food and nutrition insecurity situation, impact of the food assistance and input support programme on rural livelihoods in Zimbabwe.

Specific Objectives:

The assessment's specific objectives were:

- To estimate the population that is likely to be food insecure in the 2017/18 consumption year, their geographic distribution, gender distribution and the severity of their food insecurity;
- To assess the nutrition status of children of 6 – 59 months in rural households;
- To describe the socio-economic profiles of rural households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, access to basic services (education, health services and water and sanitation facilities), assets, income sources, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns, consumption coping strategies and livelihoods coping strategies;
- To determine the coverage and impact of livelihoods interventions in rural households of the country;
- To identify viable response interventions to community challenges in rural households of the country;
- To identify development priorities for rural communities in rural provinces of the country; and
- To measure community and household resilience and identify constraints to improving community resilience and rural livelihoods including

opportunities and pathways of addressing them in the face of prevailing and unpredictable shocks and stresses.

Technical Scope

The assessment covered a number of thematic areas which included Household demographics, Social Protection, Education, Food consumption patterns, food sources and nutrition, Income and expenditure patterns and levels, Agriculture, Markets, Household food security, Health and Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Community livelihood challenges and development priorities, Resilience, Shocks and hazards and Gender Based Violence

Preparations

Two preparatory meetings were held on the 27th of March 2017 and 20th of April 2017. The first one on 27 March was basically to roll-out the plan for the 2017 Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA). It was at this meeting where time lines for all activities were set including assessment design and objective setting. The second meeting held on the 20th of April was on strengthening the ZimVAC process where stakeholders were given an opportunity to make presentations on possible ways of improving rural livelihoods assessments.



Part of the Manicaland Enumerators undergoing Training in Mutare

These meetings were followed by the training of national supervisors from 2 - 4 May 2017 at the Food Nutrition Council. ZimVAC national supervisors were recruited from Government, United Nations, Technical partners and Non-Governmental Organisations. The supervisors underwent training in all aspects of the assessment i.e. background, data collection tools, assessment sampling strategy, assessment supervision and field supervision.

The Ministry of Rural Development, Promotion and Preservation of National Culture and Heritage through the Provincial Administrators' offices coordinated the recruitment of district level enumerators and deployment of vehicles in each of the 60 rural districts of Zimbabwe.

Training for enumerators took place from the 8th to the 10th of May 2017 in the respective 8 provinces where the assessment was going to take place (Manicaland, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central, Midlands, Masvingo, Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South. Enumerators were recruited from the respective districts of operation and trained by national supervisors.

Each district had 4 enumerators plus one Anthropometrist. The enumerators were from both government and development partners working in the respective districts. Vehicles used for the data collection were sourced from the respective provinces and districts through the coordination of the Provincial Administrator's offices.

Methodology and Assessment Process

The assessment design was informed by the multi-sectoral objectives generated through a multi-stakeholder consultation process. An appropriate survey design and



Analysts working on the Nutrition Section during the 2017 Report Writing Session in Bulawayo

protocol, informed by the survey objectives, was developed. The assessment used both a structured household questionnaire and a community focus group discussion questionnaire as the two primary data collection instruments. District key informant tools were also administered. Primary data collection took place from 11 to 23 May 2017, followed by data entry and cleaning from the 26th of May to the 28th of May 2017.

Data analysis and report writing ran from the 29th of May 2016 to the 5th of June 2017. Various secondary data sources were used to contextualise the analysis and reporting. This was done by a team of 30 technical officers from Government, UN and technical partners under the leadership and coordination of FNC.

Survey Sample Size and Data Collection Methods

The sample size was drawn from the ZIMSTAT Master sample 2012. The sampling design was multi-pronged and comprised of;

- non-probability sampling for district level key informant interviews and community level focus group discussions

- probability sampling for household surveys where:
 - household food insecurity prevalence was used as key indicator for sample size determination
 - results for the key indicators are statistically representative at district, provincial and national level at 95% level of confidence
 - a two stage cluster sampling was employed; first stage involved EA selection using the PPS principle and the second stage involved household selection using systematic random sampling
 - Primary data collection was undertaken using for data collection tools;
 - a district level key informants tool on school feeding programmes
 - a district level key informants tool on food assistance programmes
 - a community level focus group discussion tool in each of the sampled wards
 - a structured household questionnaire

The final sample of households was 11 858 and that for children aged 6 to 59 months was 4 421. One community key informant Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was held in each of the selected wards, bringing the total community key informant FGDs to 1 170. Two district level key informant interviews on food assistance and school feeding interventions were administered in each of the 60 rural districts. In addition to the above, field observations also yielded valuable information that was used in the analysis. In addition to the above, field observations also yielded valuable information that was used in the assessment.

The provincial breakdown of the sampled households is shown in the table below:

Table 1: Provincial Sampled Households Populations

Province	Households	Community FGDs
Manicaland	1379	155
Mashonaland Central	1579	173
Mashonaland East	1795	159
Mashonaland West	1376	119
Matabeleland North	1387	134
Matabeleland South	1384	123
Midlands	1568	158
Masvingo	1390	149
Total	11858	1170

All primary data collected from the field was captured using the Census and Survey Processing (CSPPro) software and MicroSoft Excel by a team of data entry clerks and consolidated and converted into Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) datasets (Household survey, Child Nutrition



Gokwe North anthropometrist measuring the weight of an under five.

and Community key informant interviews and district level tools).

Conclusion

This process culminated in the development of two products, national power point and detailed narrative RLA Reports which will be used by both the Government and Development partners in making informed decisions and programming.

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