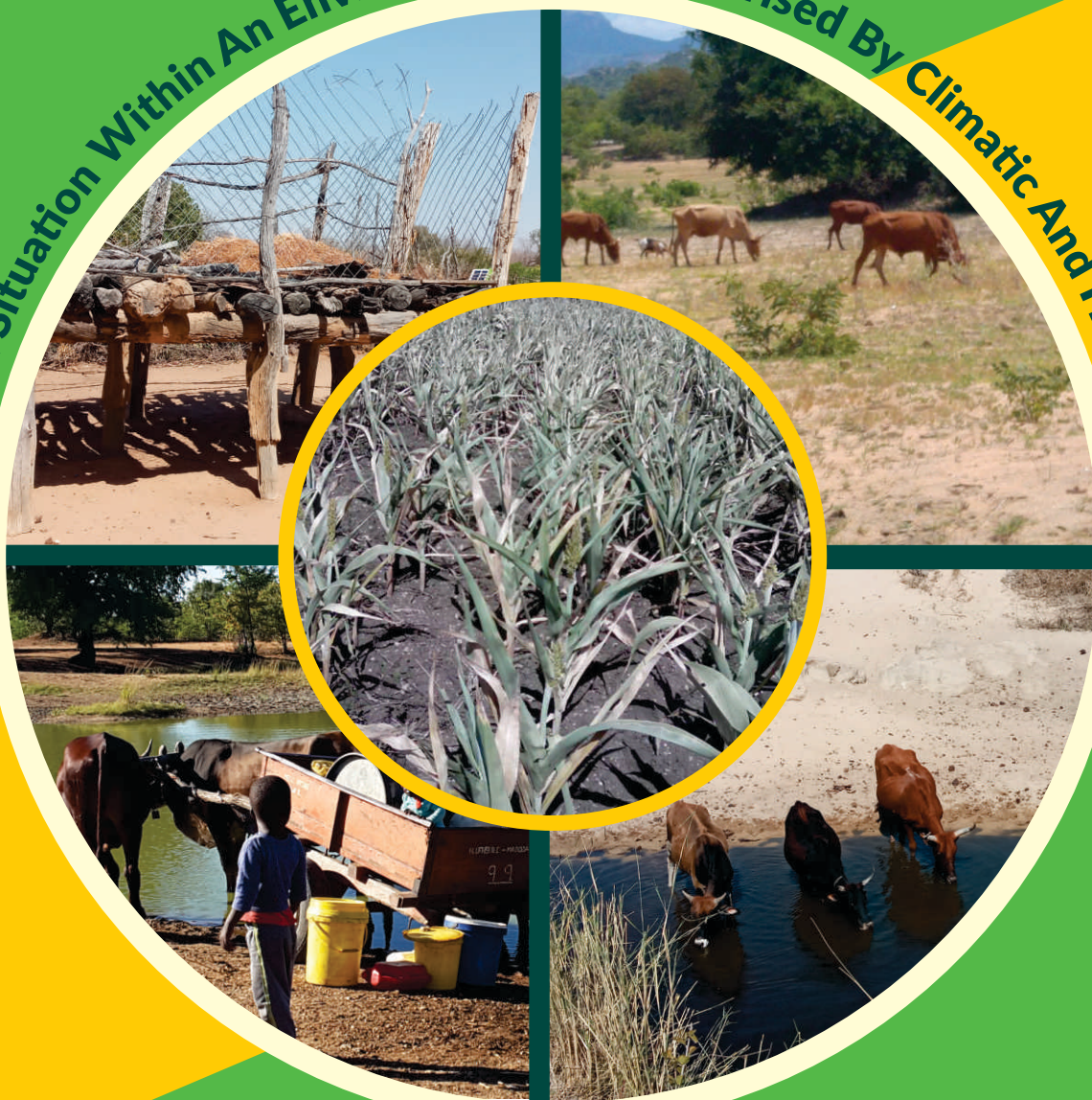


IMPACT OF DROUGHT & COVID-19 ON RURAL LIVELIHOODS

Food And Nutrition Situation Within An Environment Characterised By Climatic And Health Related Shocks



A SYNOPSIS OF THE ZIMVAC 2020 RURAL LIVELIHOODS ASSESSMENT RESULTS

HIGHLIGHTS

A combination of two natural shocks (climatic and health) negatively affecting rural livelihoods

Perennial Droughts and COVID-19 militating against the economy

Natural shocks negatively affecting rural food security situation

Government working in unison with Development Partners to provide Social Protection for the vulnerable households.

Government commended for provision of Early Recovery support to rural people

Context of the 2020 Rural Livelihoods Assessment

The 2020 ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) was conducted during a period in which Zimbabwe's economic and food security situation remains fragile. The environment was and still is characterised by several shocks that include the COVID-19 pandemic, effects of drought and crop failure, which precipitated the prevailing macro-economic shocks (high inflation and poverty). These shocks create poverty traps and increase the prevalence of food insecurity, malnutrition and consumption of unsafe food by reducing real income and forcing the poor to sell their valuable assets, decrease their food consumption, reduce their dietary diversity and increase exposure to food-borne diseases. The impact is strongly felt in low-income and food-deficit households that spend a large share of their income on food.

Zimbabwe's Current Shocks

Climate Variability and Drought

Zimbabwe is among the countries more severely affected, where drought impacts have led to water shortages, declining yields and periods of food insecurity, accompanied by economic downturns. In particular, the country's agricultural sector, mostly comprised of smallholder rain-fed systems, is at great risk of drought. Every district has been affected by drought during the past thirty years, with varying levels of severity and frequency. Severe drought episodes have been observed in 1991–1992, 1994–1995, 2002–2003, 2015–2016, and 2018–2019. The 2019/2020 cropping season was characterized by late on-set of rains across the country and false starts in the southern and south-eastern parts of the country. Long dry spells in late December 2019 and January 2020 as well as the early cessation of the season negatively affected the planted crop.

COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic further escalated the impact of the drought, Cyclone Idai and economic challenges. The outbreak of corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has rapidly spread across the world, affecting thousands of lives and livelihoods. The Zimbabwean Government declared the COVID-19 crisis a “national disaster” on Friday, March 27 2020. Thereafter, the Government of Zimbabwe instituted several containment measures in an effort to curb the spread of the virus. The Government gazetted a Statutory Instrument 83 of 2020 Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) Order 2020, on March 27, 2020 declaring the COVID-19 crisis a “national disaster” and introduced a nationwide lockdown with the aim of slowing down the spread of COVID-19.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity in the Southern African region was already alarmingly high, with a record 45 million food insecure people

across the SADC countries. Key drivers of this food insecurity include climatic shocks (drought, flooding) and structural macro-economic and social factors.

The risks which threaten to exacerbate the precarious food security situation through the following impacts on exports, imports (supply chain of essential goods such as food, medicine and other essential supplies such as seeds and fertilizers), livelihoods (employment and income reduction) and fiscal pressure on the health sector. Furthermore, none of the countries will be spared from the downstream impact of policy interventions and regulations being implemented to control the spread of COVID-19 which will be felt at individual, household, community and national levels.

The COVID-19 outbreak and its debilitating impacts on livelihoods will only further exacerbate the situation, eroding community coping capacities and deepening the food and nutrition insecurity of vulnerable households and individuals. Furthermore, we are likely to see an increase in the number of vulnerable people as those who typically are able to cope may find themselves struggling to meet their needs given the unprecedented challenging environment.

The COVID-19 pandemic severely threatens an already critical and fragile Zimbabwe food and nutrition security situation, arising mainly from the prevailing macroeconomic conditions and consecutive years of drought. The COVID-19 pandemic risks further escalating the 7 million estimated figure of food insecure households as a considerable rural and urban population is envisaged to be food and nutrition insecure as a consequence of the pandemic itself and of some of the containment efforts. Of concern is the potential impact of COVID-19 and related containment efforts on food security and livelihoods in contexts of high vulnerability and where populations are already experiencing food and nutrition insecurities.

However, the full impact of the virus on food and nutrition security is not yet known, nor will likely be known, as the spread of the virus continues to evolve differently by continent and by country. What is clear is that it will

have significant negative effects on food and nutrition security. Lessons from previous pandemics (e.g. the 2014 West Africa Ebola virus disease outbreak) indicate that food and nutrition security could be rapidly and dramatically affected in both rural and urban areas. These experiences highlight the need to act quickly and anticipate the collateral effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The major challenge has been the lack of data on the impact of COVID-19 on both livelihoods and food and nutrition security.

Economic Consequences

The COVID-19 pandemic is obscuring economic prospects in ways no one could have anticipated, and the situation may only get worse if we do not act urgently and take unprecedented action. At the global level, preliminary projections based on the latest available global economic outlooks, suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic may add an additional 83 to 132 million people to the ranks of the undernourished in 2020. In addition, the impact of COVID-19 on economies cannot be under estimated; COVID-19 has taken a toll on economies around the world as most businesses came to a halt. For example, Japan's economy, the 3rd world's largest economy, slipped into recession for the first time in 4.5 years due to Covid-19¹.

As of 17 August 2020, Zimbabwe had 135 deaths due to COVID-19, 1 325 active cases and 3 848 recovered cases. Besides the loss of life, the pandemic destabilised the economy through disruptions in trade, tourism, production, productivity, supply chains and other various integration mechanisms. Zimbabwe is already being hit by a drop in export revenues due to slow-down in demand and weakening of its currency. On the import side, Zimbabwe with high food import burden will be affected. The decision for a lockdown is needed for reducing infection and "flattening the curve" but it will also have far reaching effects on people and their livelihoods, especially of daily wage earners, small businesses, the informal sector and the large population already at risk because of pre-existing vulnerability conditions. Requirements to maintain social/physical distancing and travel restrictions are negatively

1 <https://www.france24.com/en/20200518-japan-slips-into-recession-due-to-covid-19-crisis-worst-yet-to-come>

impacting programme delivery and humanitarian and developmental activities, which threatens food and nutrition security. Travel restrictions and border closures are likely to delay the movement of the essential supplies such as seed and fertilizers (for the winter season) which are crucial for the preparation of the 2020/2021 planting season. This could have longer-term implications on food security of households.

Programmes will inherently have to depend on reduced information and evidence. It is also crucial for Government and partners to ensure that the delivery of assistance is provided in a manner that enforces the “Do No Harm” principle. Due to the anticipated disruptions in the supply chain of essential goods and services, SADC has prepared transport guidelines² to ensure that there is free flow of goods and services despite the movement restrictions and border closures effected by member states. Furthermore, households with livelihood options such as petty trade, vending, casual labour, skilled trade and own businesses were likely to experience the most impact of no trade during the lockdown period.

Thus, with a combination of drought and the COVID-19 pandemic, the Zimbabwe macro-economic environment remains stressed with negative impacts on household livelihoods, incomes and access to food and other basic commodities. The natural shocks have induced some negative economic shocks related to rising inflation which has eroded buying power of basic food items, forcing a significant number of households to resort to negative coping strategies. Zimbabwe has seen her year on year inflation for the month of May 2020 at 785.55% and the Total Consumption Poverty Line (TCPL) for April 2020 at ZWL 7,425.81, which is 703.4% higher compared to the same time last year.

2 https://www.sadc.int/index.php/download_file/view/7499/3137/

Impact of Natural Shocks (drought & COVID-19 pandemic) on Rural Livelihoods

Through the ZimVAC 2020 Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) that was conducted from 01 to 31 July 2020, Zimbabwe is one of the first few countries that has managed to gather enough data that will enable analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on rural livelihoods and on food and nutrition security. The data generated from the RLA will enable for evidence-based response, policies and programming to minimise the impact of COVID-19. Decision making in times of crisis relies on accurate and reliable data to effectively support the planning and implementation of actions in a timely and responsive manner, particularly in crisis situations, as has been precipitated by COVID-19. The data generated will be of great use to both the Government of Zimbabwe, Development Partners and the world at large as it provides evidence that will go a long way in helping policy makers monitor, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 and any similar future crises.

Data Generation Process

The 2020 ZimVAC Rural Livelihoods Assessment was informed by the multi-sectoral objectives generated by a multi-stakeholder consultation process. Appropriate survey designs and protocols informed by the survey objectives were developed. The assessment employed both a structured household questionnaire and a District Key Informant focus group discussion tool as the two primary data collection instruments. Household food insecurity prevalence was used as the key indicator to determine the sample to ensure 95% confidence level of statistical representativeness at district, provincial and national level. The survey collected data from 20 randomly selected EAs that were enumerated in the 2019 RLA. A two staged cluster sampling was used and comprised of sampling of 20 clusters per each of the 60 rural districts, denoted as EAs in this assessment, from the Zimbabwe Statistics Agency (ZimSTAT) 2012 master sampling frame using the PPS methodology. A total of 200 households were interviewed per district, bringing the total sampled households to 11 971. Data analysis and report writing were conducted from 27 July to 21 August 2020. Various secondary data sources and field observations were used to contextualise the analysis and reporting.

1. Systemic and Idiosyncratic Shocks

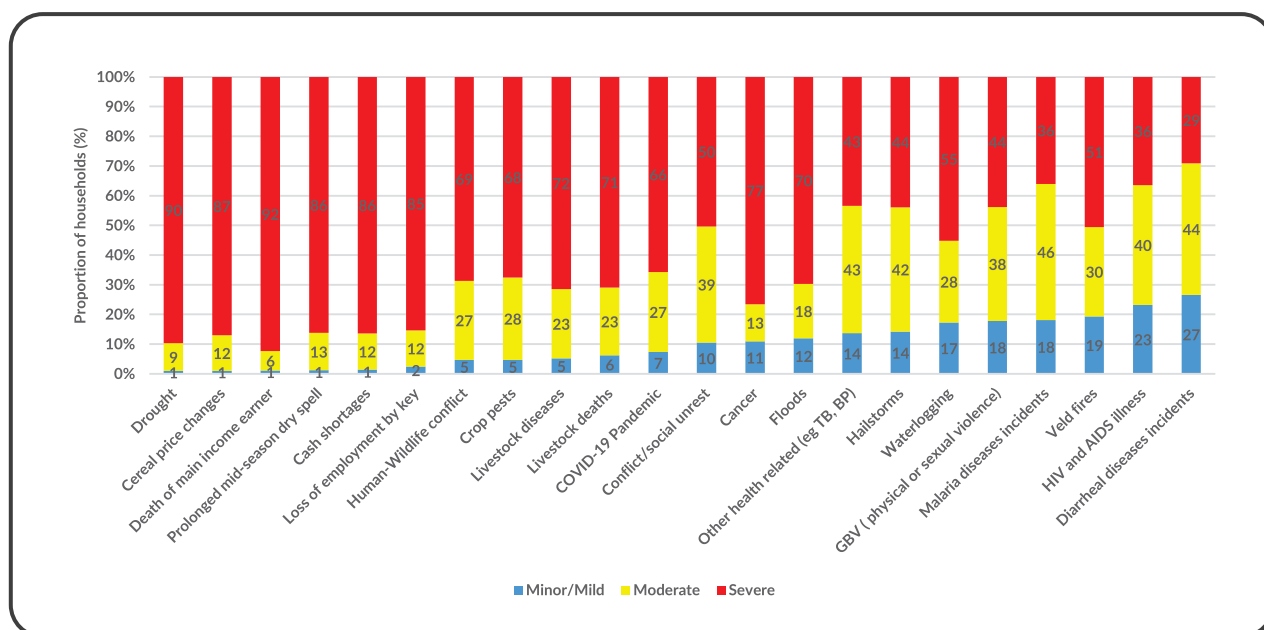


Figure 1: Severity of Shocks on Households

Drought (90%), cereal price changes (87%), death of main income earner (92%), prolonged mid-season dry spell (86%) and cash shortages (86%) were reported to have had the most severe impact to households. Additional analysis of the data revealed the following (See Annex 1).

- Food insecure households were 1.9% more susceptible to the COVID-19 shock as compared to food secure households.
- Food insecure households were likely to be 7.8% more susceptible to cereal price changes and 2.2% more likely to be susceptible to cash shortages as compared to food secure households.
- Similarly, food insecure households were 5.7% more susceptible to drought and 4.7% more likely to be susceptible to dry spell than food secure households.
- The severity of the following shocks was higher in food insecure households as compared in food secure households: COVID-19 (63.9%), cereal price change (84.3%), cash shortages (82.7%), crop pests (64.2%), drought (85.4%) and dry spell (83.1%).

2. COVID-19 and Containment Measures

Access to Personal Protective Equipment

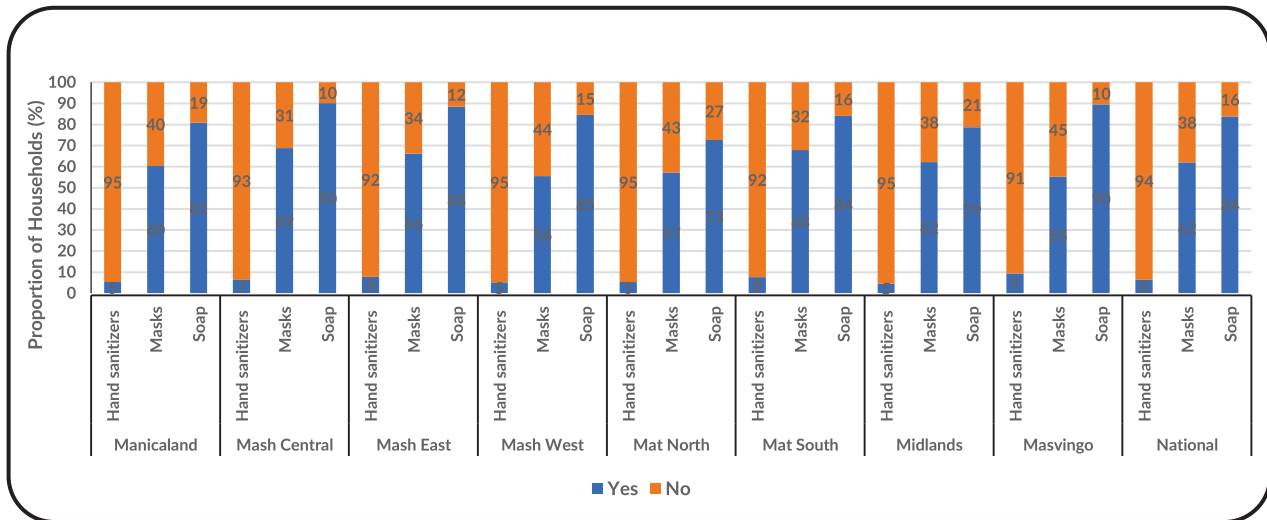


Figure 2: Access to Hand Sanitizers, Masks and Soap During COVID-19

Nationally, access to handwashing soap (84%) and masks (62%) was high. However, access to sanitisers was very low (6%). The trend was similar in all provinces, that is, handwashing soap was readily available while hand sanitizers were not easily accessible.

Access to Services

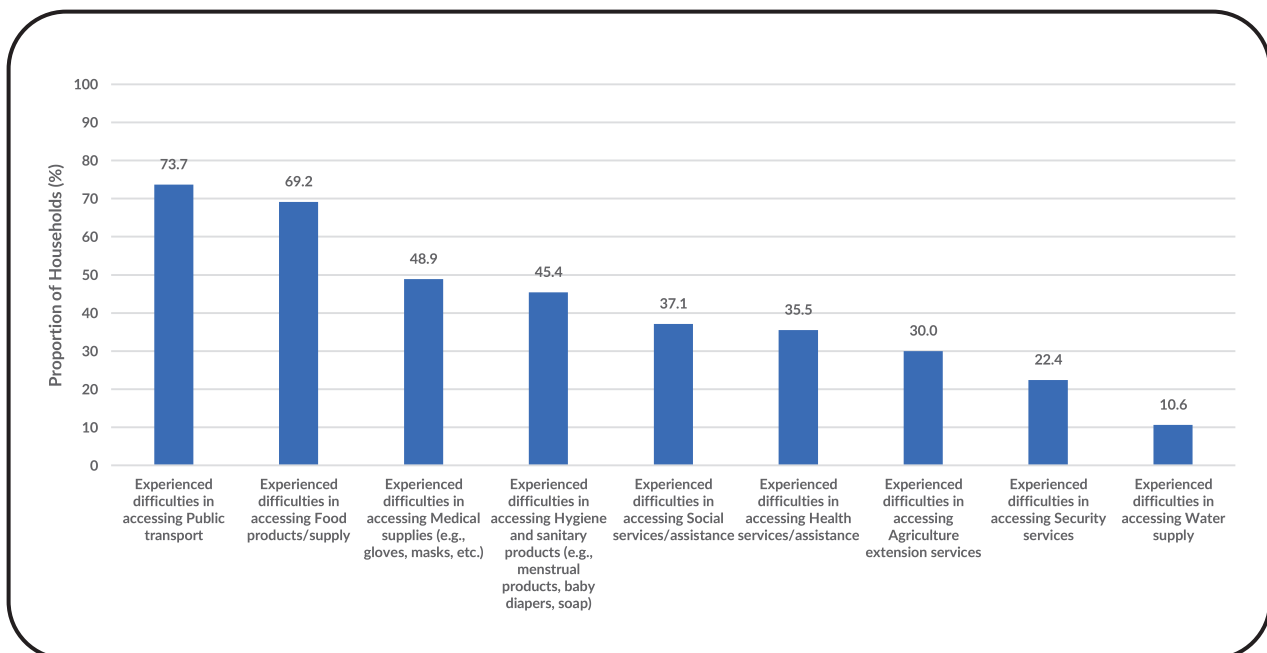


Figure 3: Access to services during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Most households reported that they faced difficulties in accessing public transport (73.7%), accessing food (69.2%), and medical supplies (48.9%) since the pandemic started in Zimbabwe. Access to water (10.6%) and security services (22.4%) were the least affected services by the pandemic.

3. Impact of COVID-19 on Livelihoods

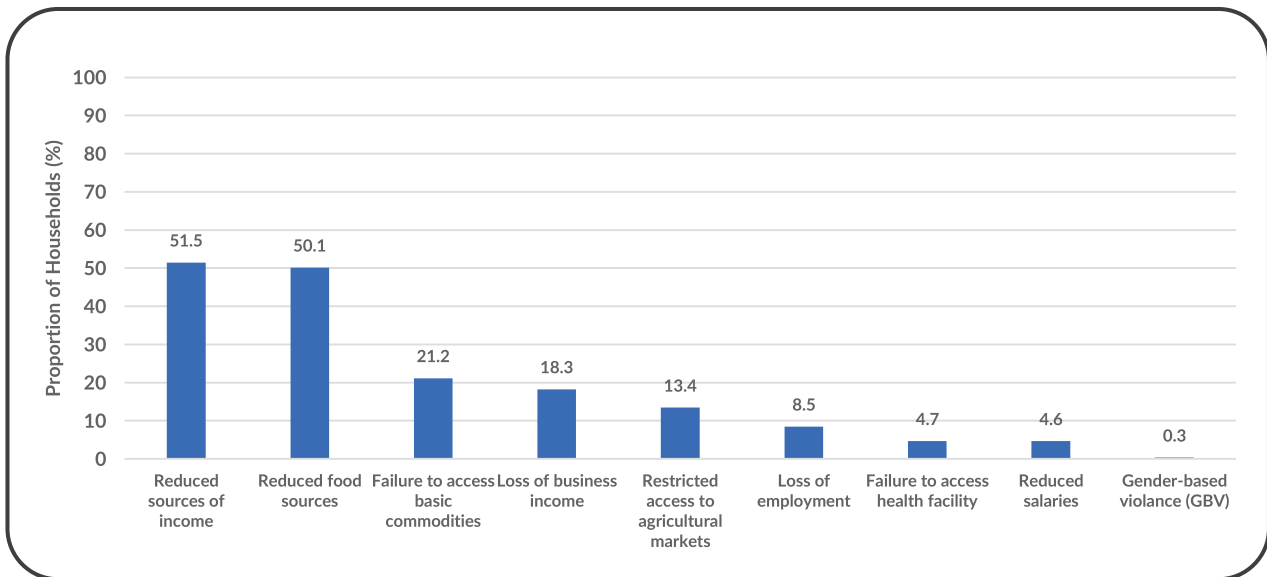


Figure 4: Effects of COVID-19 on Livelihoods

The top three (3) effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods were; reduced sources of income (51.5%), reduced food sources (50.1%), and failure to access basic commodities (21.2%). Most of these effects can be attributed to the containment measures/lockdown; for example, reduced food sources, failure to access basic commodities, restricted access to agricultural markets and failure to access health facilities. Furthermore, being affected by COVID-19 was associated by a reduction of 47.6% in household income, *ceteris paribus*. Households affected by COVID-19 were associated with an increase in the propensity to be food insecure of 2.94% at the 5% level of significance. And also households at minimal risk of contracting COVID-19 virus were associated with a decline in the probability of being food insecure of 2.66% at the 1% level of significance all things being equal. (See Annex 2)

4. Effect of Drought and COVID -19 on Food Security

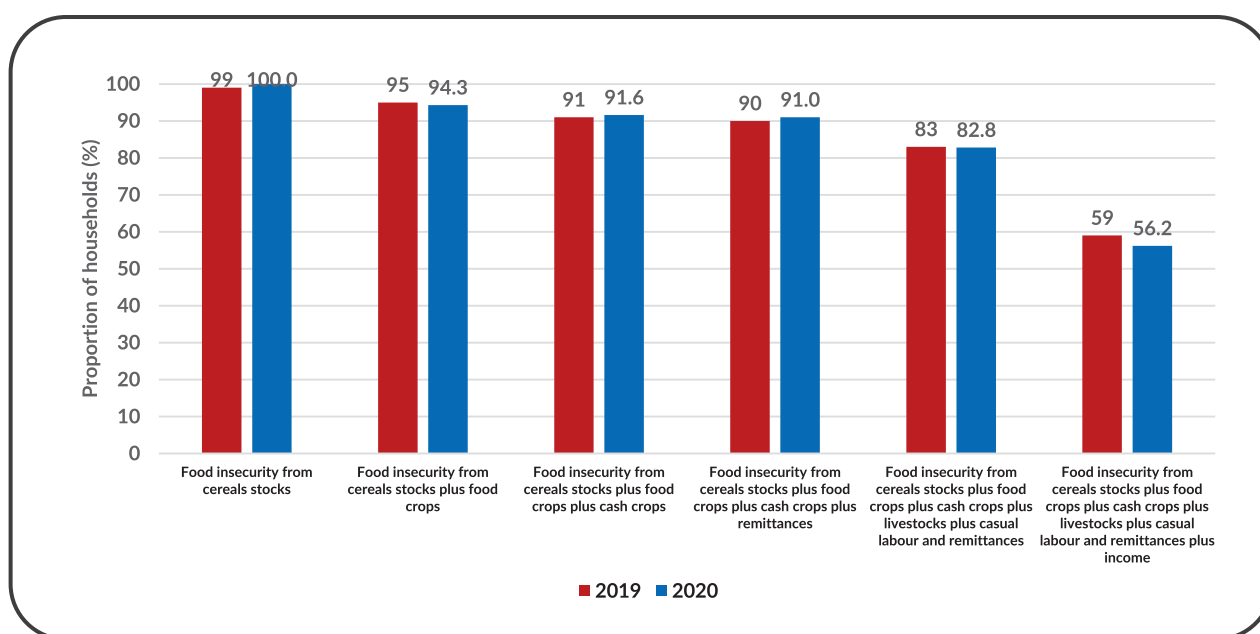


Figure 5: Cereal Insecurity Progression by Income Source

Income from remittances, livestock, casual labour and from sources such as gifts, pensions, gardening formal and informal employment were depressed in comparison to other seasons. The cereal insecurity prevalence is projected to be 56.2% during the peak hunger period of 2020/21.

The effects of the poor rainfall season, the COVID-19 pandemic and macro-economic fundamentals have contributed significantly to the worsening food insecurity projections. The severity of the following shocks was higher in food insecure households as compared in food secure households: COVID-19 (63.9%), cereal price change (84.3%), cash shortages (82.7%), crop pests (64.2%), drought (85.4%) and dry spell (83.1%).

- Being affected by COVID-19 was associated by a reduction of 47.6% in household income, *ceteris paribus*.
- Households that were affected by COVID-19 were associated with a 2.94% increase in the propensity to be food insecure, at the 5% level of significance.
- Access to food services was greatly affected by the lockdown for both food secure (67.3%) and food insecure (70.3%) households.

- Access to public transport was also affected greatly by the lockdown for both food secure (73%) and insecure (74%) households.

5. Effect of Drought and COVID-19 on Women and Children's Nutrition

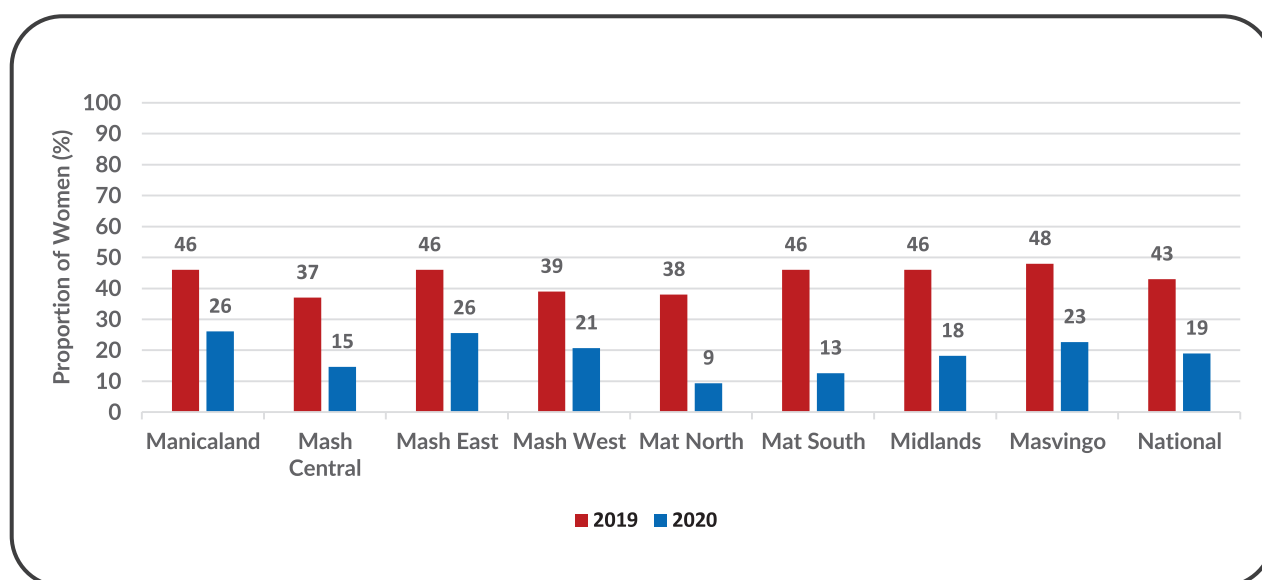


Figure 6: Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women of Child Bearing Age

There was a significant drop in the proportion of Women of Child Bearing Age consuming minimum dietary diversity (43% in 2019 to 19% in 2020) during the 24 hours prior to the survey. This deterioration in diet quality has negative implications on their nutrition and health outcomes. (See Annex 3)

- Women from food insecure households had a lower Women Dietary Diversity Score (WDDS) (2.19) as compared to those from food secure households (2.38).
- Only 26.1% of food insecure households are likely to consume protein rich foods and only 11% are likely to consumer iron rich foods in comparison to 35.2% and 18.8% in food secure households, respectively.
- The consequences of a low dietary diversity for women of child bearing age are far reaching as the health and nutrition status of women can impact the nutrition status of the child.
- Women situated in households headed by older people are less likely

to consume less of protein rich, iron rich and vitamin A rich foods and are more likely to have a lower dietary diversity as compared to those headed by younger heads. For example, at the 1% level of significance, an increase in the age of the household head reduces the WDDS by 0.0279 points, *ceteris paribus*.

- Female headed households are more likely to consume all the recommend foods and are 37.6% more likely to have a higher dietary diversity as compared to male headed households. This result indicates that gender of the household head is a major determinant influencing dietary diversity of the members of a household.

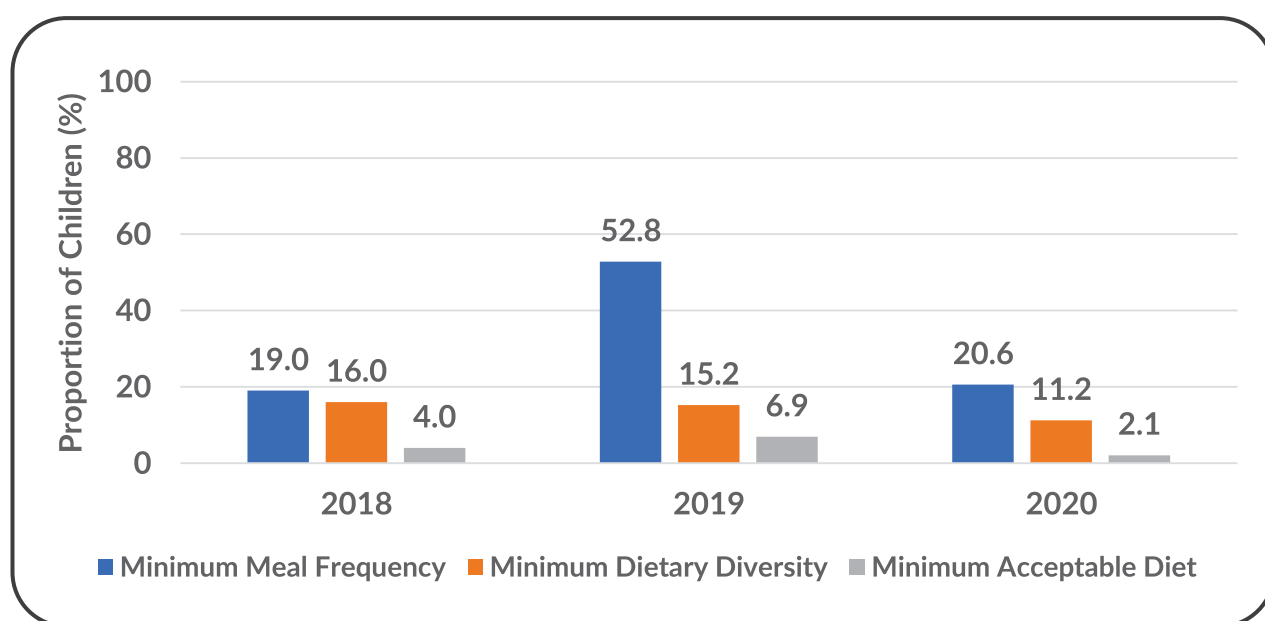


Figure 7: Complementary Feeding for Children Under 5 Years

Nationally the minimum meal frequency, minimum dietary diversity and minimum acceptable diet greatly deteriorated in 2020 as compared to 2019.

6. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Access to consumptive water

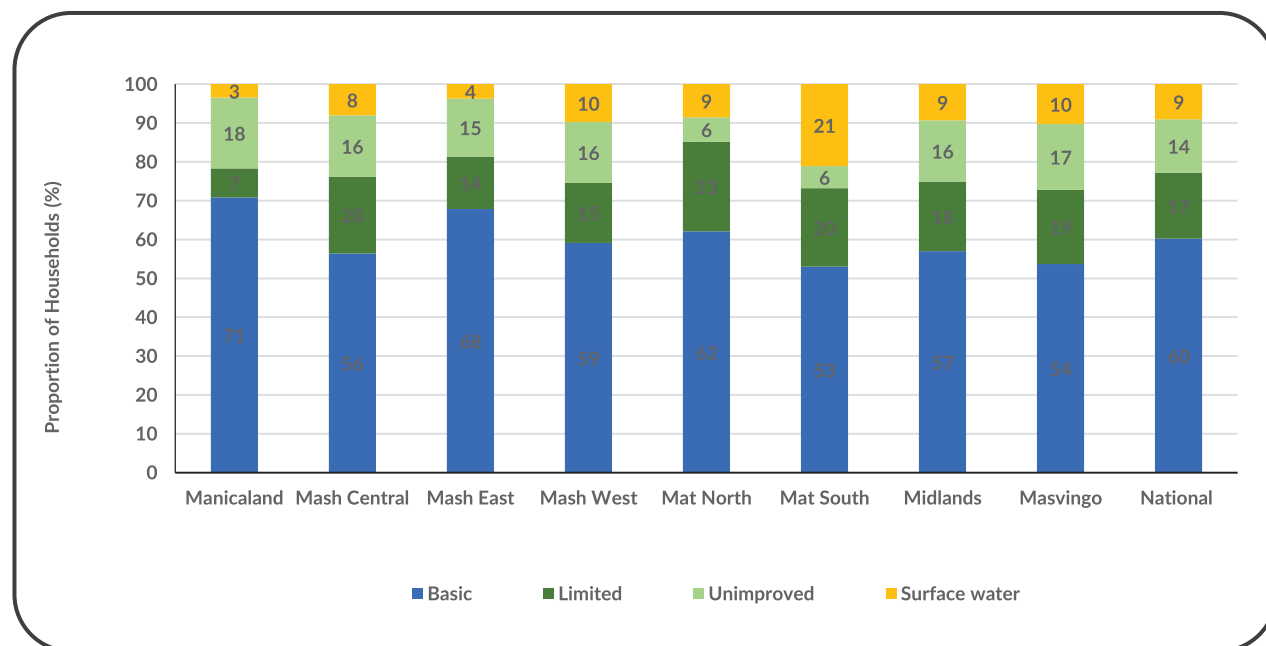


Figure 8: Main Drinking Water Services

There was a decrease in the proportion of households using unimproved water sources from 20% in 2019 to 14% in 2020. Matabeleland South continues to have the highest proportion of households accessing surface water (21%).

7. Social Protection to the Vulnerable People

The Government is commended for an active response to the prevailing food and nutrition insecurity. At least 76% of rural households received support, an increase from the 73% in 2019. The assessment found voluminous evidence of Government working in unison with the development partners to provide social protection for the most vulnerable households. The combination and convergence of efforts by Government and development partners has seen the majority of districts receiving food aid able to support the Zimvac projected figures.

Table 1: Sources of Any Form of Support

Province	Government Support		UN/NGO Support		Church Support		Rural Relatives		Urban Relatives		Diaspora Relatives	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Manicaland	47	44	13	36	4	3	10	10	9	15	3	6
Mash Central	64	58	15	35	3	3	17	10	19	13	2	2
Mash East	50	50	7	27	3	3	17	17	20	22	6	7
Mash West	55	44	6	27	4	3	17	6	19	12	7	3
Mat North	48	52	25	41	2	3	12	16	12	13	16	17
Mat South	68	70	26	30	5	2	20	15	17	15	33	33
Midlands	69	69	7	36	4	3	16	13	24	18	11	10
Masvingo	49	54	14	31	3	2	20	16	19	19	9	12
National	56	55	13	33	3	3	16	13	18	16	11	11

Nationally, 55% of the surveyed households received Government support, followed by UN/NGO (33%), urban relatives (16%), rural relatives (13%) and then diaspora relatives (11%). There was an increase in the proportion of households that received support from UN/NGO from 13% in 2019 to 33% in 2020.

8. Policy Mitigation and Intervention Measures Implemented

- Launch of the Humanitarian Appeal (April 2020-April 2021) which aimed at addressing the food insecurity and the impact of inflationary pressures.
- Supporting the vulnerable groups through distribution of food aid (in-kind) and cash transfers;
- Removing restrictions on food importation such as removal of import duty on maize and wheat, cooking oil, among other basic commodities, to ensure affordability of essential foodstuffs and to mitigate the effects of the drought.
- Food Subsidies through continued implementation of social protection measures to improve food access (e.g. maize meal subsidies).

- Distribution of farming inputs through programmes which included Command Agriculture and Presidential Input Scheme programmes.
- Grain importation which was facilitated through lifting the ban on private grain sales, allowing individuals and corporates with free funds to import grain.
- Allowing importation of GMO maize through lifting the ban on importation of genetically modified maize to avert the food insecurity situation.
- Access to consumptive water through availing resources towards borehole drilling, rehabilitation and construction of Headworks for livestock water troughs.
- Employment creation through the employment of the vulnerable communities by engaging able bodied Drought Relief Participants under the Capital Development Projects (Water, Roads and Bridges construction and rehabilitation activities).
- Strengthening of Multi-Sectoral Structures in order to operationalise a cohesive response to the food and nutrition challenges. The structures include the following:
 - Inter-Ministerial Cabinet Committee for Food and Nutrition Security
 - Inter-Ministerial Grain Importation Committee
 - Internal Logistics and Distribution of Grain Committee
 - Working Party of Permanent Secretaries
 - Food Aid Working Group
 - National Food and Nutrition Security Committee
 - District Food and Nutrition Security Committees and District Drought Relief Committees and;
 - Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committees (inclusive of local leadership including local Councilors and Chiefs)
- Local distribution of food

- COVID-19 relief pay-outs were provided for 3 months to cushion vulnerable households and those in the informal sector whose sources of income were affected by the lockdown.
- Government also opened up space for developing partners to contribute and assist.

9. Implementation of Early Recovery Programmes

Table 2: Sources of Inputs for Crops

Crop	Maize	Sorghum	Finger millet	Pearl millet	Tubers	Cowpeas	Groundnuts	Roundnuts	Sugar beans	Soya beans	Tobacco	Cotton
Government	52	33	7	17	0	4	1	1	3	5	1	59
Purchases	31	6	6	5	10	10	14	17	40	45	29	4
Retained	17	32	52	51	53	46	54	48	33	30	1	1
Carryover	9	15	23	20	31	24	25	27	18	10	1	2
Remittances	4	7	8	5	6	8	6	6	6	8	2	1
NGOs	2	6	3	4	0	5	1	0	3	0	0	1
Gifts	2	8	7	8	7	7	5	7	3	2	1	1
Private contractors	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	68	36

Government is commended for its resolute commitment to provide support for rural livelihoods' early recovery. The major sources of maize (52%) and sorghum (33%), cotton (59%) inputs was Government.

Recommendations

Based on the above highlighted major findings, the following recommendations are put forward. These recommendations are in view of initiating early recovery and to avert a devastating food insecurity crisis in the country.

- i. **Social protection**, especially in the form of food aid or any other form necessary, should continue and even be increased to include all households that are food insecure. The current social support efforts by both the Government and Development Partners are commendable. However, it is recommended that food aid programmes be also nutrition sensitive as the results of this assessment indicated that most rural households are having an unacceptable diet and are employing coping strategies that result in negative consumption patterns. The provision of social protection and resilience building support will help the rural households to respond better to the negative effects of the lockdown.
 - Targeted **nutrition sensitive interventions** should be increased to arrest the high level of child malnutrition and low dietary diversity for women. For example, the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated containment measures have affected the school feeding programmes. Thousands of school children who were receiving nutritious meals on a daily basis before the COVID-19 pandemic are no longer accessing the food and are now vulnerable to malnutrition. Hence, measures should be put in place to continue with the feeding programmes even at ward level.
 - It is recommended that the female headed households, HIV/AIDS affected households and households headed by the elderly be considered among those to be prioritised.
- ii. Considering that the 2020/2021 agricultural season is fast approaching, it is recommended that the Government and Development Partners support early recovery by farmers through:

iii. **Input support** – Crop input supports needs to be scaled up to include all farming households in Zimbabwe in order to cushion them against the losses incurred during the past consecutive droughts and the increasing costs of key agricultural inputs such as seed, fertilisers and herbicides.

- a. **Input subsidy** to improve access and affordability by all smallholder farmers. Timely availability of these inputs is critical for farmers to plan early.
- b. **Livestock support** targeting the production provinces. The support should include livestock feed and chemicals. Support towards renovation of community dip-tanks is also encouraged.

iv. **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene** - The increasing proportions of households accessing water from unimproved sources, surface water sources and distant water sources is worrisome. There is urgent need to mobilise resources to establish improved sources in these areas and to encourage households to treat their drinking water. As sanitation is one of the major indicators used to measure the attainment of Upper Middle Income economy status which the country is aspiring towards, there is need for major investment in sanitation to ensure the country does not lag behind on attaining the status. Availability of water for animals should also be prioritised

v. In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, handwashing practices and general hygiene practices need to be scaled up.

vi. Support towards **increased market access** by both farmers and consumers is encouraged. Restricted access to markets can have the following implications, i) derail agricultural input supply chains at critical times in the season; ii) constrain transport of goods to processing facilities and/or markets. Such disruptions of the food supply chain are likely to have significant adverse repercussions, particularly for the most vulnerable population groups, including informal traders, the poor small holder farmers and those relying on markets to meet their food needs.

vii. Income and Expenditure – The combination of climate related shocks, the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic circumstances (including impact of the lockdown) has affected rural livelihoods, thereby reducing disposable income available to the households for food and nutrition security. The use of alternative forms of payment has been necessitated by the prevailing cash challenges. There is need to raise the 2% transaction tax above the current level in line with inflation to cushion the vulnerable. Interventions that strengthen households' economy and resilience are highly recommended to ensure households remain food and nutrition secure.

viii. Child and Women's Nutrition– Multisectoral Community based interventions to improve dietary diversity for women and children should be scaled-up as child feeding practices and women's consumption of nutritious diets remains poor. The increase in acute malnutrition also calls for the Government and development partners through the responsible ministry to respond by ensuring the availability of adequate screening and therapeutic commodities. Nutrition is highly susceptible to changes in climate, disease outbreaks and economic shocks; and bears a heavy burden as a result, as seen in the impaired nutrient quality and diversity of foods produced and consumed, the impacts on water and sanitation, and the effects on patterns of health risks and disease, as well as changes in maternal care, child care and breastfeeding.

ix. There is also need to continue monitoring the nutrition status of children using community initiatives like mother/caregiver Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurements and other available feasible mechanisms.

x. COVID-19- In order to ensure households' adherence to recommended measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, there is need for urgent interventions that focus on behavior change and awareness of the magnitude of the Covid-19 pandemic among rural households.

xi. Impact of COVID-19 on Livelihoods- Rural households have suffered reduction of income sources, reduction of food sources and failure to access basic commodities as a result of the pandemic. There is need for the development of a holistic and multi-sectoral response to the pandemic to ensure that policies being implemented to mitigate the spread of the disease, such as lockdowns do not inadvertently increase household vulnerability.

xii. **Food Insecurity** - Zimbabwe's climate variability, extreme droughts and COVID-19 are among the key drivers behind the cereal insecurity prevalence of 56.2% in 2020. In light of the projected prevalence of cereal insecurity (56.2%, which translates to 5 454 270million people), there is need for urgent food distribution or cash based transfers to food insecure households in order to avoid a worsening situation.

xiii. **Enhanced Food Access** - The projected household food security situation is based on a number of assumptions about the most likely out-turn regarding staple cereal prices, cereal deficit households' purchasing power and staple cereal availability. There is need to continuously monitor market access and prices as the volatility presented by the evolving COVID-19 pandemic may impact negatively on food access.

xiv. **Shocks and Hazards** – While cash shortages and drought among others are recurring shocks, the COVID-19 pandemic is an emerging shock which is further compounding households' vulnerability. This calls for the development of holistic strategies to respond to both the existing and emerging shocks.

xv. It is recommended that **monitoring** be done on a quarterly basis as this will generate more real-time data and evidence on the impact of Covid-19 and other shocks. Given the unprecedented nature of the crisis, creating a better understanding of the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security and related vulnerabilities is of paramount importance and urgency. As such, data collection and data sharing modalities should be adapted to ensure continuous monitoring of changes in food security levels, food and agricultural supply chains, food production and availability, and food and agricultural input prices and identify possible risks that may threaten food systems.

xvi. **Management of Food Aid** – The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic calls for innovative approaches in both the mobilisation of resources and distribution of food assistance. Currently, there is very high competition for resources and there are potential constraints in the movement of commodities.

xvii. Lastly, to the ZimVAC 2020 Rural Livelihoods Assessment results have provided evidence on the extent of the impact of Covid-19 and drought, it is therefore important for policy makers to consider evidence provided in this report when designing and implementing COVID-19 containment measures.

Annex 1. Prevalence and severity of economic shocks

Type of shock	Susceptibility to shock			Severity of shock		
	Household is food secure?		Difference [Y – N]	Household is food secure?		Difference [Y – N]
	Yes [Y]	No [N]		Yes [Y]	No [N]	
Covid-19	0.253	0.234	0.019**	0.639	0.668	-0.030*
Cereal price change	0.574	0.652	-0.078***	0.843	0.885	-0.042***
Cash shortages	0.731	0.753	-0.022***	0.827	0.885	-0.058***
Crop pests	0.374	0.391	-0.017*	0.642	0.695	-0.053***
Drought	0.698	0.755	-0.057***	0.854	0.921	-0.067***
Dry spell	0.638	0.685	-0.047***	0.831	0.880	-0.049***

Annex 2. Effect of Covid-19 on livelihoods (household income, food security and minimal Covid-19 risk food security)

VARIABLE	Impact on income	Impact of food security	Impact of minimal corona risk on food security	
Covid-19	ln(Household income)	Household is food insecure	Household is food insecure	Household hunger scale
	-0.476***	0.0294**	-0.0266***	-0.0487**
	(0.0798)	(0.0117)	(0.00995)	(0.0233)
Observations	11,839	11,839	11,804	11,802

Standard errors in parentheses *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1

Annex 3. Women nutrition

	Household is food secure?				Difference [Y – N]
	Yes [Y]		No [N]		
	Mean	S. D	Mean	S. D	
Protein rich foods	0.352	0.478	0.261	0.439	0.092***
Iron rich foods	0.188	0.391	0.110	0.312	0.079***
Vitamin A rich foods	0.614	0.487	0.607	0.489	0.007
WDDS	2.380	1.806	2.193	1.622	0.187***

Standard errors in parentheses *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1



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