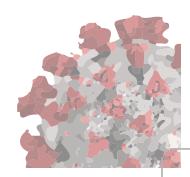




# Food and Nutrition Security in the Context of COVID-19 in Zimbabwe

## **MWENEZI DISTRICT**

**Response Strategy** 



### **Mwenezi District**

#### Masvingo



#### **District Brief Introduction**

**Mwenezi district** is one of the largest districts in Masvingo Province. The district comprises of 18 administrative wards (12 communal and 6 resettlements wards) and lies in agro-ecological regions 4 and 5.

According to NNS (2018) chronic malnutrition affects 25.8% of children under five years in Mwenezi.

#### **COVID 19 Disaster**

The district suffered from the effects of the covid-19 pandemic which was declared in March 2020. Measures that were instituted by the government included reinforcement of lockdowns that restricted unnecessary movement of people. As a result, the food and nutrition security of communities was compromised including their means of livelihoods.

#### **Challenges Caused by the COVID 19**

- Limited access to markets for cash and food.
- Low remittances due to closure of boarders.
- Hiking of prices of basic commodities.
- Learners out of school for long period affecting their schooling times and examinations.
- Increased child marriages and pregnancies because of loafing.
- High prevalence of domestic violence because of limited outdoor socio-economic activities.
- COVID-19 stigma and discrimination for returnees from quarantines and isolation centres.
- Shortage of public transport to access essential services.
- Downsized operations of other essential services.
- Loss of livestock due limited services e.g. inadequate dipping and vaccination programmes.
- Low rate of latrine construction at household level.

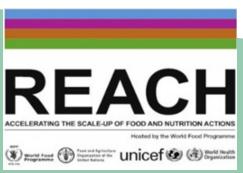
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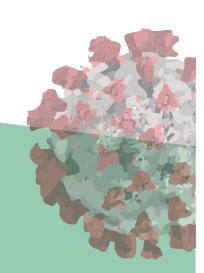
#### Strategies employed to address challenges brought about by the COVID- 19

- Provision of food mitigation strategies by government, NGOs and retailers.
- Government- Drought relief programme, registration of small to medium enterprises affected by COVID-19 and Pfumvudza.
- NGOs-Implementation of nutrition sensitive food assistance programmes.
- Renovation of an isolation unit at Mwenezi District Hospital which is currently at 98% completion.
- Online learning for learners returning to school by end of third quarter.
- Continued health education on COVID-19 at all levels.
- Dissemination of IYCF messages at food distribution points every month.
- Awareness campaigns through WhatsApp groups for payment of dipping levy and supplies of scarcities to be supplied at animal health management centres.
- Nutrition screening and treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition in all wards.
- Rehabilitation and drilling of new boreholes.
- · Installation of piped water schemes.
- Distribution of IEC material on COVID-19 at shops, clinics, households and community centres



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