



Note from the Director

The operational environment in 2020 was challenging owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing containment measures which were implemented to save lives. However, FNC continued to undertake its mandate, functioning as a Programmatic Support agency, transitioning into a Strategic Policy Support agency. In spite of the challenges and disruptions, FNC continued to coordinate food and nutrition stakeholders at all levels to ensure the implementation of a sustained and cohesive response to the prevailing food and nutrition challenges. Monitoring of the food and nutrition situation in both the rural and urban areas was undertaken to ensure provision of evidence for planning and programming. This bulletin provides insights into the 2020 Urban Livelihoods Assessment process, a key component of the Food and Nutrition Security Information System. Other key activities undertaken in 2020 and plans for 2021 are also highlighted. We would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the unwavering support received from Government and Development Partners without which these activities would not have been successful.

The 2020 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee Urban Livelihoods Assessment in Motion

The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) under the coordination of the Food and Nutrition Council, successfully undertook the 2020 Urban Livelihoods Assessment (ULA), the 8th since its inception. This was in fulfilment of Commitment number VI of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy. As the country is grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic, this assessment was undertaken at an opportune time as there was an increasing need to urgently collect up to date food and nutrition security data to effectively support the planning and implementation of actions in a timely and responsive manner.

The assessment process was characterised by a highly consultative multi-sectoral approach spanning across all processes from resource mobilisation, tool development, supervisor and enumerator training as well as data collection.

Findings from previous Urban Livelihoods Assessments in Zimbabwe have shown rising food and nutrition insecurity and vulnerability in the urban areas. Key drivers include structural macro-economic and social factors, climate related shocks and more recently, health pandemics. Urban households have not been spared the negative impact of climate related shocks. These have not only affected the urban agriculture enterprise but have also exacerbated the already precarious water situation in the urban areas, exposing households to waterborne diseases and increased incidents of load shedding.

Justification for the Assessment

The assessment sought to inform short, medium and long term interventions that address immediate and long term needs as well as building resilient livelihoods. The performance of the agricultural season, the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the prevailing macro-economic environment have affected the livelihoods of

the urban population. The impact on the livelihoods, which has ripple effects on household wellbeing outcomes, has not been quantified and ascertained and this justified the need to carry out a livelihoods assessment. The assessment results will be used to inform planning for targeted interventions to help the vulnerable people, given the prevailing situation in the country as well as their long-term vulnerability context.

The assessment also served to monitor and report towards commitments within the guiding frameworks of existing national food and nutrition policies and strategies among them the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1), the Food and Nutrition Security Policy and the Zero Hunger strategy. In addition, the assessment will also contribute towards monitoring of interventions to ensure the adherence to the principles spelt out in regional and international frameworks which Zimbabwe has committed to which include the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Assessment Purpose

The overall purpose of the assessment was to provide an annual update on livelihoods in Zimbabwe's urban areas, for the purposes of informing policy formulation and programming appropriate interventions. The specific objectives of the assessment were:

- To estimate the population that is likely to be food insecure in the 2020/21 consumption year, their geographic distribution and the severity of their food insecurity
- Assess impact and severity of COVID 19 on urban livelihoods.
- To assess the nutrition status of children of 6 – 59 months.
- To describe the socio-economic profiles of and urban households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, access to basic services (education, health services and water and sanitation facilities), assets, income sources, urban agriculture, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies.
- To determine the coverage of humanitarian and developmental interventions.
- To determine the effects of shocks experienced by communities on food and nutrition security.
- To document opportunities for enhanced urban livelihoods.

Assessment Process

Supervisor and Enumerator Training and Standardisation

A multi-sectoral team of supervisors undertook the tool development process and standardisation virtually. The supervisors were drawn from various Government Ministries and Departments, Academia as well as Development Partners. The process facilitated consensus building on a standardised approach to the assessment process. This was followed by virtual enumerator training and standardisation in preparation for fieldwork.

Data Collection

Data collection took a two-pronged approach which saw primary and secondary data being collected using appropriately designed tools and approaches. Primary data was collected from 37 domains by teams of 4 enumerators from the 4th to the 13th of December. From each domain, 25 Enumeration areas (EAs) were drawn and from these, 10 households were randomly selected for household interviews bringing the total to 250 households per domain and a total sample of 9250 households.

The sampling size was such that key food security indicators can be generalized at district and domain level, which is the third tier of the Government administrative levels, with at least 95% confidence. Supervisors provided support and technical backstopping to the enumeration teams to ensure smooth flow of the enumeration process. In addition, a high-level team comprised of Chief Directors, Directors and Deputy Directors from various Government ministries and departments also supported the process. Taking into cognisance the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, all enumerators and supervisors were trained on how to practice Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) measures during the assessment process.

The assessment benefited immensely from the lessons learnt during the 2020 Rural Livelihoods Assessment in July which saw data being collected without any harm incurred. The urban assessment was guided by global and country specific recommendations and all necessary precautions were taken to avoid potential transmission of COVID-19 between enumerators and community members. In order to reduce exposure to COVID-19 through person-to-person physical contact, primary caregivers were capacitated to measure their children using Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes and assessment of oedema.

Assessment Process in Pictures



Left, caregivers taking MUAC measurements. Right, household interview in progress

Following the finalisation of the data collection process, data cleaning and preparation have commenced. Once finalised, report writing will be undertaken and the results will be organised around but not restricted to the following thematic areas;

- Education
- Health
- WASH
- Nutrition
- Livelihoods activities
- Access to food (food security)
- COVID-19
- Social protection
- Linkages amongst the key sectoral and thematic areas
- Cross-cutting issues such as gender, disability

Expected Outputs

From the assessment the following outputs are expected;

- Summary report for presentation to policy and decision makers.
- Comprehensive Technical Report

Key Prospects for 2021

FNC will continue undertaking its mandate to ensure that every Zimbabwean is free from hunger and malnutrition. This will be achieved through increasing synergies among key stakeholders including as well as providing evidence to facilitate effective programming in the context of COVID-19 and the drought

- Factsheets
- Bulletins
- Thematic Reports and further analysis

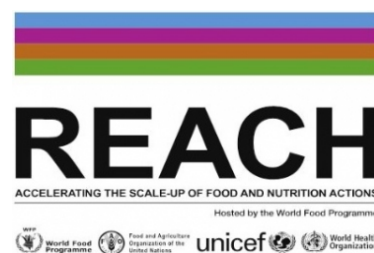
Assessment Results Dissemination

As has become the norm, FNC will spearhead the dissemination of the assessment findings at regional, national, provincial and domain levels. These platforms will be used for further discussion on the localized implications of the results, issues/indicators that need to be monitored and will act as feedback mechanism. The findings from the ULA will also go a long way in informing programming, advocacy and resource mobilisation by Government and Development partners.

In particular, the results will be critical in providing local insights into the full impact of the Corona virus on food and nutrition security in this country as the spread of the virus continues to evolve differently by continent and by country. In addition, the data will be of great use to Government, development partners, programme planners and communities in the recovery from the pandemic, providing timely information and helping monitor, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 and any similar future pandemics.



Supported By



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Every Zimbabwean Free from Hunger and Malnutrition