



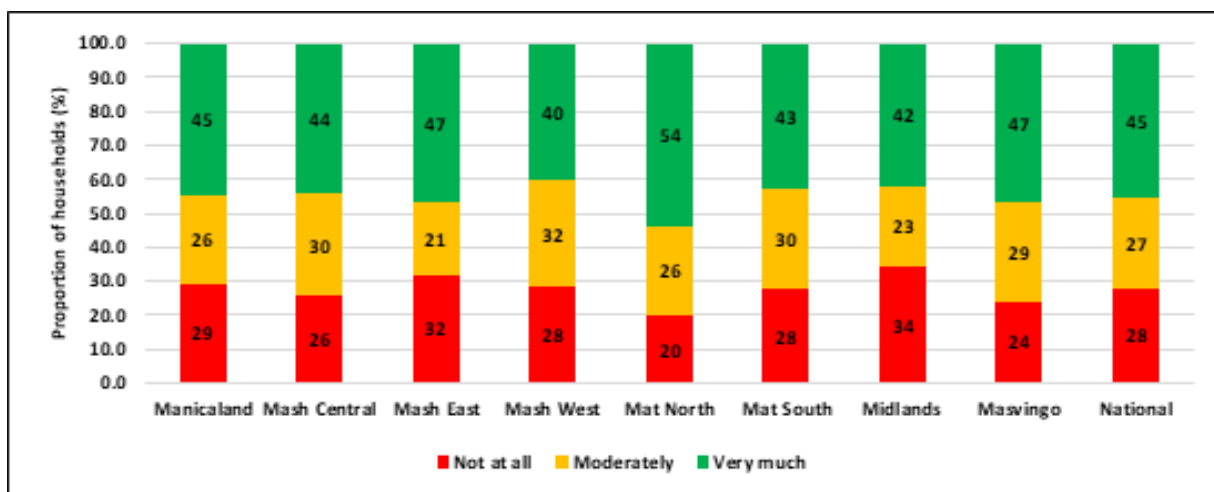
Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) 2021 Rural Livelihoods Assessment Factsheet



Towards A Food and Nutrition Secure Zimbabwe

The 2021 Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Commitment (ZimVAC) Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) was undertaken in May with the overall purpose of providing an annual update on livelihoods in all the 60 rural districts of the country. Government is commended for implementing the necessary progressive policies and creating a conducive environment that resulted in a number of improvements to rural livelihoods.

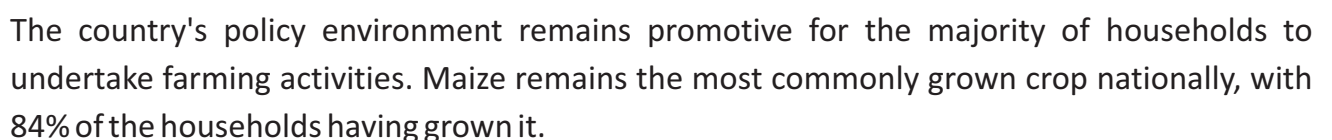
a) Confidence in the Health System



At least 72% of the households reported that they trust in Government COVID-19 Vaccines. This creates a window of opportunity for Government and development partners to scale-up vaccination initiatives to meet the expectation of attaining herd immunity.

- b) Access to Improved Water:** Government is applauded on ensuring high access to improved water in the rural areas of Zimbabwe as 78% of households had access to improved water.
- c) Access to Adequate Consumptive Water:** Access to consumptive water is a human rights issue which is well respected by the Zimbabwe Government. More than 85% of the households reported having adequate water for cooking, drinking, personal hygiene and other domestic needs.

e) **Social Protection:** All districts across the country were getting support. Government was reported as the major provider of support, with Development Partners also complementing these efforts.



- g) Incomes (April 2021):** Government is commended for creating a positive enabling economic environment that has seen increase in household incomes. The household average monthly income increased from USD 33 in 2020 to USD 75 in 2021. Across all provinces, incomes have increased from a range of USD27 – USD45 to a range of USD63 – USD102.
- h) Food Expenditure Ratio:** Government is commended to ensuring an economic environment that reduces food expenditure ratio, thereby allowing use of money for other household requirements. The food expenditure ratio was 55%; a decrease from 65% reported in 2020. This improvement implies that households had more income to spend on other essential services and non-food items compared to 2020.
- i) Expenditure Patterns (6 Months):** There was an increase in expenditure on education and agriculture. The highest expenditure was on education (USD40.44) and agriculture (USD36.96). The coming in of a construction expenditure reflects a positive trajectory for the rural households.
- j) Household Hunger Score:** The majority of the households (89%) reported having experienced little to no hunger in the last 30 days prior the assessment.

k) Improved Food Availability

Province	Cereal Production (kg)	
	2019/20	2020/21
Manicaland	212.4	337.5
Mash Central	301.9	718.9
Mash East	284.5	485.2
Mash West	319.4	888.2
Mat North	144.9	562.8
Mat South	85.7	360.5
Midlands	213.9	584.3
Masvingo	165.4	401.7
National	219.7	543.8

Average household cereal production more than doubled from 220 to 544kg.

- l) Improved Food Stability:** The majority of households accessed cereals within their wards. Other households were the major source of maize grain, sorghum, finger millet and pearl millet. This is a reflection of the availability of food on the market.
- m) Improved Food Access:** There was a reduction in the proportion of households engaging in negative consumption coping from 25% to 15%.
- n) Food Insecurity (Peak Hunger Period):** There was a reduction in the problem of household food insecurity by more than 50% from 56% to 27%. The 27% of rural households translated into approximately **2,942,897** individuals requiring **262,856 MT of** cereal (Maize Grain) from the National Strategic Grain Reserves.

Government is recommended to continue implementing measures and strategies to address the following areas:

- a) Education:** At least 23% of school going age children were out of school, of which 19% of this was due to pregnancy/marriage.
- b) Open Defecation:** It remains significantly high in Matabeleland North Province (50%).
- c) Access to Loans:** It was very low with only 4% of the households having received loans.
- d) Irrigation Schemes:** Only 27% of rural communities have access to irrigation schemes. The majority of the schemes are non-functional and need attention.
- e) Livestock Ownership:** Average household cattle and goats ownership remains low.
- f) Cattle Prices:** Prices were low in some districts (USD 138).
- g) Grain Storage:** A worrisome 63% of households reported that they were storing maize in ordinary rooms.
- h) Nutrition Education:** Only 39% of households reported to have received nutrition education in the past 12 months.
- i) Food Consumption Patterns:** Only 57% of households were consuming the required diets.
- j) Shocks and Hazards:** Waterlogging; Crop pests; Drought; Livestock diseases and death were the most reported shocks.
- k) Effects of COVID-19:** The majority of households reported having been affected by reduced sources of income and loss of employment as a result of the pandemic.

In order to find lasting and sustainable solutions to the prevailing livelihoods challenges, we call upon Government and development partners to ensure that communities are involved actively in the development and implementation of response programmes to empower them to be masters of their own destiny.

Programmes Towards Rural Transformation

- Crop diversification
- Access to Agriculture Training and Extension services
- Adoption of modern technology
- Household income diversity – promotion of cash crops and opportunities for employment
- Social Protection

Policies and Strategies Towards Rural Transformation

- National Development Strategy 1
- Devolution and Decentralisation Policy
- Agriculture related policies
- FNS Policies and Strategies
- Infrastructure Development Policies
- Social Protection Policies
- Health and Wellbeing related policies

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World Health Organization



Spotlight Initiative
To eliminate violence against women and girls