

## Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

**Zimbabwe**

January-April 2011

### Key Messages

- Prices of maize have increased since December, but remained stable in the past few months; poor households have difficulty accessing food.
- An estimated 1.7 million people in rural and urban areas are food insecure. Different agencies are concerned over the food security situation throughout the country at least until harvest in March.
- Tensions in the National Unity Government continue due to disputes over new constitution and elections.
- The Government, with the help of the humanitarian community, is assisting vulnerable groups to access food and agricultural inputs.

### Background

The total population is 12.52 million with an annual the growth rate of 0%. Around 30% of the population was estimated to be undernourished while the proportion of HIV among adults is 14.3%.

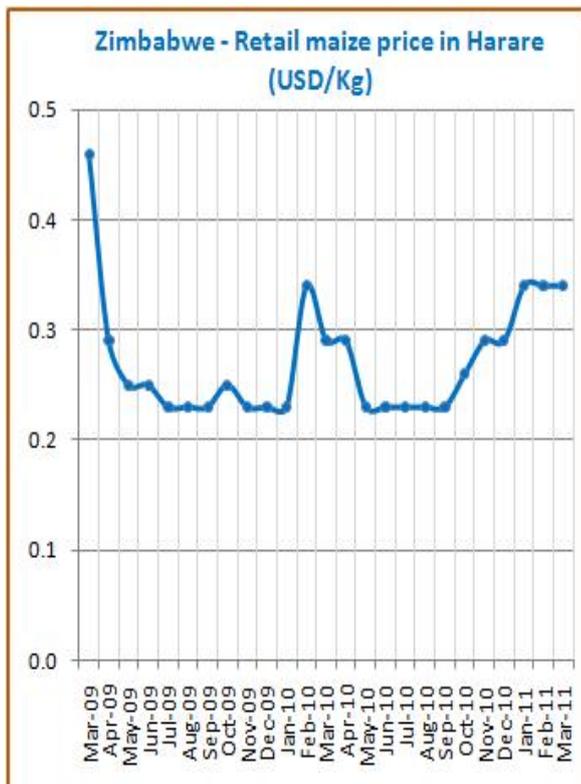
Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2009 (WB)	12.523
Population growth rate - 2009 (WB)	0%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP	n.a.
Population below 1\$ PPP per day	n.a.
Rural population - 2009 (WB)	62%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2005 (WB)	19%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2005/2007 (FAO)	30%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	56%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	4%

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	44%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2008 (WHO)	42
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	82%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2009 (WHO)	14.3%

### Prices

In Harare, maize prices remained stable between Jan and March at 0.34 USD/Kg, though prices have sharply increased (17%) from Dec 2010, when maize was quoted 0.29 USD/Kg. In February, maize prices in local markets were 17% higher than prices of maize US No2 Yellow (290.58 uSD/T) on the international market. No price data available for recent months.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

### Food Security Situation Assessment

The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Committee estimated 1.3 mln rural people as food insecure during the peak lean season from Jan to March. An additional 400,000 urban people were reported by the CFSAM to have serious constraints to access food. A total of 1.7 mln people are food insecure. The majority of rural food insecure households are in southern, western and extreme northern areas. Food security is expected to improve for some 600,000 people thanks to harvests starting in March. Vulnerable groups were supported with cash for work programmes and food aid between Jan and March. Under WFP's Seasonal Targeted Assistance programme, some 1 mln beneficiaries received food aid by the end of Feb. GIEWS reports exceptional shortfalls in aggregate food production; FAO Hunger map highlights high undernourishment and IFPRI estimates alarming hunger.

#### CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT

Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	<a href="#">FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2010</a>

Staple cereals (maize, sorghum, and millet) and other basic foods continue to be readily available on the market up to early February and the situation is expected to improve with harvests in April/June. However, limited incomes continue to constrain ...[more](#) [FEWSNET](#)

#### SCALE OF HUNGER (% of Undernourishment)

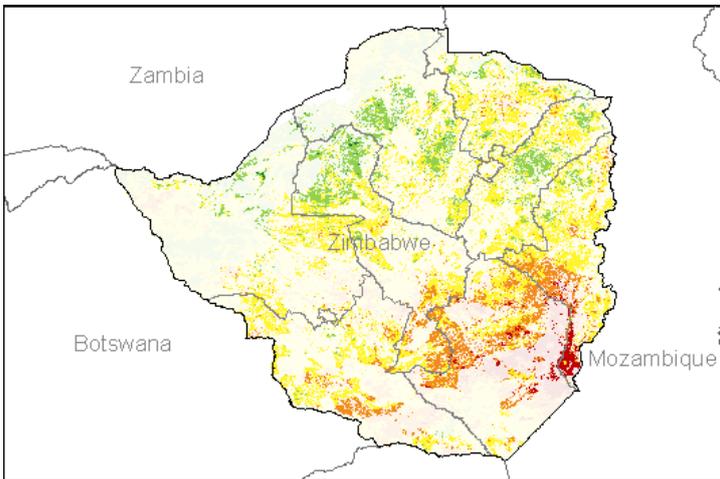
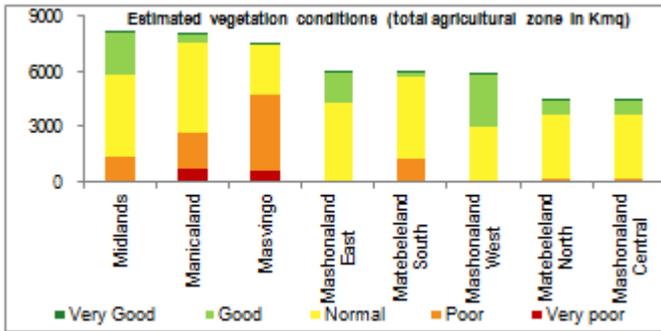
Very high (>= 35%)	High (25-34%)	Moderately high (15-24%)	Moderately low (5-14%)	Very low (< 5% under.)	<a href="#">FAO Hunger Map</a>

FAO Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.

Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low	<a href="#">IFPRI/2010 GHI</a>

### Vegetation Condition

At the end of the rainy season, poor to very poor conditions are observed in the southern part of the country (provinces of Manicaland, Masvingo, Midlands, and Matabeleland South) whereas normal to good conditions are observed elsewhere. The indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the relative difference between the NDVI for April 2011 and the average of the last 10 years on the agricultural zones derived from the GLOBCOVER database.



Source: JRC.MARS – FoodSec

### Crop phase in the reference period

<b>Sowing</b>	Sorghum
<b>Growing</b>	Maize - Sorghum
<b>Harvesting</b>	No crops are harvested during the reference period

### Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

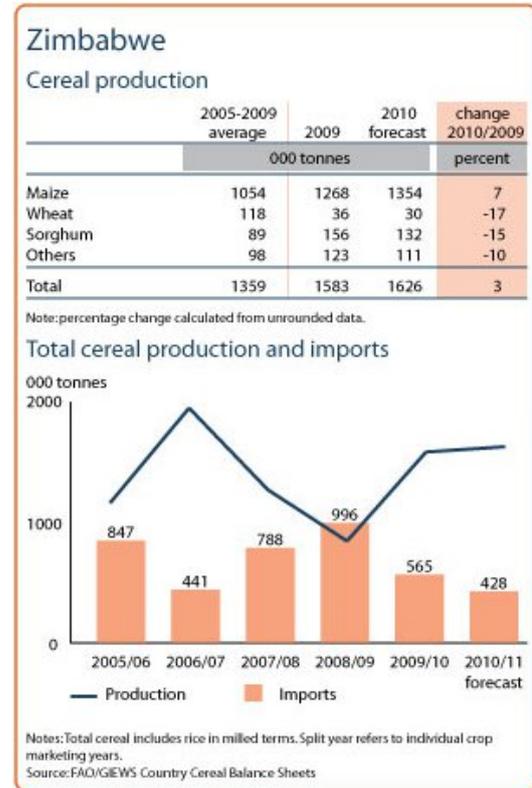
The country is still faced with a long lasting political crisis due to power struggles in the divided Government of National Unity (GNU) and disputes over the new constitution and new elections.

Refugees and IDPs	2007	2008	n.a.
Total in the country	4524	3998	n.a.
Total outside the country	48707	51639	23872

Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 01/12/2010.

### Food Balance Sheet

The 2010 national maize production is estimated at 1.35 mln MT, 7% over the 2009 output. Total 2010 cereal production was at 1.6 mln MT, representing 3% increase from 2009 and well above the five year average. Imports are estimated at about 430,000 tonnes for 2010/11 marketing year, compared to 565,000 tonnes in 2009/10.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

### Government Policies

The Government and the humanitarian community have continued the input subsidy programme, distributing fertilizer and seed through the Grain Marketing Board depots either directly or with a voucher scheme. In total, an estimated 1.5 million households benefited from input assistance for the 2010/11 season. Also food aid programmes are in place.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	Input subsidy
Trade policy measures	n.a.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	Food aid

Different sources

### Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

- [Demilitarise Zim polls: NGOs](#)
- [Fresh wave of farm invasions](#)
- [Operational plan 2011-2015 DFID Zimbabwe May 2011](#)
- [Food Assistance Outlook Brief May 2011](#)
- [Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights o...](#)

For more information, contact: [Information-for-action@fao.org](mailto:Information-for-action@fao.org)  
Website: [www.foodsec.org](http://www.foodsec.org)

Powered By the GIEWS Workstation

The Programme on Linking Information and Decision Making to Improve Food Security is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.