



“Chronic malnutrition in children under five years old has reached 33 percent”

Zimbabwe

Background

The recent political advances in 2009 have had a marked impact on Zimbabwe's devastated economy. Dollarization of the economy, accompanied by the easing of trade restrictions and removal of price controls have led to much better food availability throughout the country. Although there are uncertainties about likely progress in implementing the Global Political Agreement, all signs point to the country moving away from humanitarian crisis towards transition.

Recovery from almost a decade of instability and economic deterioration will take time and must be supported through humanitarian activities that both meet the immediate needs of the poorest population and lay the foundation for genuine socio-economic development. Chronic vulnerability remains, particularly in rural areas, linked to HIV prevalence rates of 13.7 percent and lack of access to food and basic social services, and reflected in a rate of chronic malnutrition in children under five years old that has reached 33 percent.

Challenges facing food security and livelihoods

Agriculture is central to the livelihoods of about 70 percent of Zimbabwe's population. A decade ago, many rural, communal farmers would have relied on a mixture of remittances from family members in urban centres and their own production to ensure their food security. The almost complete collapse of the country's economy, however, forced more and more people to depend on their own harvests to feed themselves and their families. Inefficient land and crop management practices and intensive production have led to declining soil fertility and falling yields across the country. The decline in the provision of extension services has meant farmers struggle to access appropriate training and information on good agricultural practices.

The 2008/09 agricultural season saw excellent rainfall conditions across most of Zimbabwe and resulted in good harvests. Despite this, there remains a significant food deficit due to the extreme shortage of essential inputs, including quality seeds, tools, fuel and draught power. Many farmers were forced to rely on second or third choice seeds and even on food aid grains to plant in the last season and remain in urgent need of assistance for the coming seasons. However, the opening of the country's economy has provided an excellent opportunity to initiate market-oriented input distribution to prevent a continued reliance on external assistance. Deterioration of the national veterinary infrastructure and persistent shortage of veterinary drugs and vaccines have increased the risk of



FAO plans to assist the most vulnerable farming households, by providing seeds and other inputs through input trade fairs.

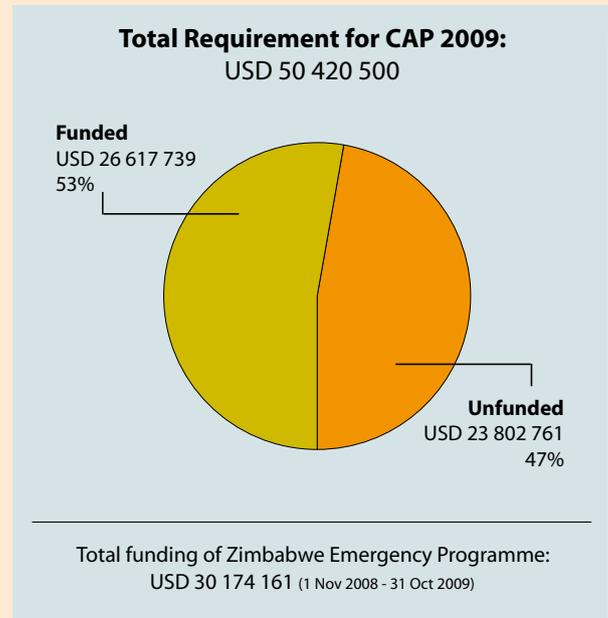
livestock mortality, threatening a key source of food and incomes. There is an urgent need to manage the recently emerging threat to both animal and human populations, reflected in the expansion of tsetse fly populations into wider areas. In addition, the smallholder poultry sector continues to see declining flock sizes as a result of Newcastle disease.

FAO response

FAO will continue to serve as lead of the Agriculture Cluster in 2010, with the objective of improving household food security and rebuilding livelihoods. In the past few years, the Organization has positioned itself as a key provider of essential, accurate and timely information on agriculture and food security for humanitarian and Government partners. In the coming year, FAO will continue to work with the Famine Early Warning Systems Network and the National Early Warning Unit to provide regular updates on the food security and agriculture situation in Zimbabwe. As the chair of the Agricultural Coordination Working Group, FAO plans to continue its efforts to bring representatives of UN agencies, NGOs, farmers' unions, community groups, Government institutions and the private sector together to share information and ensure coordinated planning of programmes and interventions in 2010 to avoid overlap and reach the most vulnerable populations.

Livestock production plays an important role in the livelihoods of vulnerable rural households. However, the combined impact of animal diseases, limited resources and sale of livestock has severely reduced herd and flock sizes in the country. During 2010, FAO plans to support the restocking of poultry and mass vaccination of birds against Newcastle disease and ruminants against FMD and tick-borne diseases. Efforts will also be made to prevent the spread of tsetse fly to reduce infection rates among animals and humans.

In collaboration with NGO partners, FAO plans to assist the most vulnerable farming households, including young people and people living with HIV/AIDS, by providing crop and vegetable seeds and other inputs through input trade fairs and support to agrodealers; organizing Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools; and conducting training in post-harvest storage, food preservation, improved agronomic practices and nutrition. Higher yields will be encouraged through the promotion of conservation agriculture and better land and crop management practices accompanied by appropriate extension support and training.



PROPOSALS: FAO EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE**Total funding requested: USD 29 238 608**

Livelihoods support for vulnerable children and youths through institutionalization of Junior Farmer and Life Schools	
Objectives:	To reduce dependence on food aid and promote food security at the household level for vulnerable groups.
Activities:	Organize input and livestock trade fairs and distribute vouchers to beneficiaries; train and support beneficiaries in post-harvest storage and management; train youth groups in nutrition, gardening and food preservation techniques; promote the production of sustainable tree products; support young people's livelihood projects (such as beekeeping, oil seed pressing and soap-making); organize Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools for vulnerable children and young people; support water harvesting at the community and household levels; and mainstream HIV/AIDS awareness into all activities.
Beneficiaries:	25 000 individuals (including 20 000 children and 5 000 young people).
Implementing partners:	Ministry of Education, UNICEF, Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development, Tsungirirayi, Christian Care and World Vision.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 1 094 976.

Rural Agrodealer Restocking Programme (in partnership with the Netherlands Development Organization)

Objectives:	To assist in renewing and creating sustainable business relationships between wholesalers and rural agrodealers. This will illustrate the potential of a market-driven approach for agricultural input distribution.
Activities:	Select wholesalers, sites and agrodealers in a timely manner, prioritizing female agrodealers; conduct a due diligence assessment of wholesalers and agrodealers and select local organizations to provide extension support, business training and HIV prevention and coping services; distribute agro-inputs (including quality seeds, fertilizers, agrochemicals, veterinary products and tools) in a timely manner for a wide variety of food crops; train agrodealers and farmers on improved farming techniques and promote crop diversification; and ensure continuous delivery of extension support throughout the season.
Beneficiaries:	300 000 households and 600 agrodealers.
Implementing partners:	N/A.
Duration:	March 2010 – June 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 135 176.

Emergency control of epidemic foot-and-mouth disease in Zimbabwe

Objectives:	To enhance household food security through improved marketing opportunities and asset protection by controlling FMD in Matabeleland North and South and Masvingo provinces.
Activities:	Procure vaccines; conduct vaccination (two rounds) of animals and control buffalo-cattle contact; organize training on surveillance, central data capture and animal movement; ensure coordinated meetings to facilitate cross-border harmonization of FMD control activities; collect reports, samples and guidelines and carry out laboratory tests; and analyse and produce reports and maps.
Beneficiaries:	350 000 animals belonging to 50 000 households.
Implementing partners:	Department of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 1 884 226.

Provision of dipping chemicals, dip tank management and improved community dipping services in communal areas of Zimbabwe

Objectives:	To save the livestock assets of rural communities and protect their major source of livelihood; and gradually transfer the responsibility for dipping cattle in the communal sector from the Government to farmers.
Activities:	Procure dipping chemicals; distribute dipping chemicals to all rural Animal Health Management Centres; revive and train livestock dipping committees in dip tank and dipping service provision management; provide a platform and facilitate negotiations between livestock dipping committees and dip chemical manufacturing companies for procurement, storage and distribution of chemicals; and monitor and evaluate project activities.
Beneficiaries:	450 000 cattle owners.
Implementing partners:	Department of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development and farmers' unions.
Duration:	January 2010 – June 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 1 397 476.

Resuscitation of tsetse target barriers along the tsetse front

Objectives:	To save the livestock assets of rural communities in marginal rainfall areas, thus protecting their major source of livelihood through the resuscitation of the tsetse fly control target barrier programme; and prevent the tsetse fly from re-invading previously cleared areas.
Activities:	Procure materials, odour chemicals and camping equipment; train staff in tsetse control techniques and strategies; distribute target materials, odour chemicals and camping equipment; deploy targets; and monitor and evaluate project activities.
Beneficiaries:	340 000 smallholder households.
Implementing partners:	Department of Livestock Production and Veterinary Services – Tsetse Control Division.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 1 540 476.

Production of essential seed for smallholder farmers

Objectives:	To establish reliable production, supply and distribution of legume and small grain seeds with local companies.
Activities:	Identify partners (including NGOs, farmers' organizations, seed companies and Government services), zones, communities and farmers; develop a detailed plan of roles and responsibilities for seed production, including crops and varieties to be produced, area under production, training of farmers, farmer-seed producer contracts, supervision of production and purchasing and marketing arrangements; and implement seed production according to the developed plans.
Beneficiaries:	NGOs.
Implementing partners:	NGOs, Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development, Agritex, Rural District Councils and farmers.
Duration:	January 2010 – August 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 812 946.

Coordination of information systems around agriculture and food security

Objectives:	To provide the humanitarian community active in the agriculture sector with appropriate coordination services to ensure consistency among interventions; and produce and disseminate accurate, timely and independent information on agriculture and food security to be used as a basis for programming and to inform policy.
Activities:	Train agricultural extension workers on data collection; undertake data collection on agriculture and food security indicators in 80 sentinel sites; analyse data, prepare reports and disseminate information to all stakeholders; organize IPC training and dissemination workshops; implement pilot projects as recommended by technical working groups; and implement national surveys (rural and urban ZimVAC and First and Second Round Crop Assessments).
Beneficiaries:	Government departments, humanitarian organizations, research institutes and UN agencies.
Implementing partners:	Agritex, National Early Warning Unit, ZimVAC Committee, Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development and UN agencies.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 1 210 476.

Newcastle disease control and poultry production in rural areas of Zimbabwe

Objectives:	To protect assets and increase poultry production through support to the Department of Veterinary Services in the control of Newcastle disease in communal areas of Zimbabwe.
Activities:	Support poultry production through restocking with indigenous poultry types and assistance to the production of broilers and layers under arrangements with commercial companies (contract farming); and carry out mass vaccinations of chickens in all rural districts.
Beneficiaries:	11 million birds belonging to 900 000 households.
Implementing partners:	Department of Livestock Production and Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development and NGO partners.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 697 476.

Improved food security and livelihoods for rural communities through advanced land-use and management practices (conservation farming) and contract growing (joint project with Practical Empowerment and Networking Youth Association [PENYA] Trust)

Objectives:	To improve food and livelihood security for rural households through improved land-use and management practices.
Activities:	Design a training and extension programme for project agents and farmers on improved agronomic practices (soil and water management practices, use and correct application of organic and inorganic fertilizers, integrated pest management, etc.); procure inputs; create farmers' groups and linkages with the private sector for contract growing; supervise contract growing arrangements; distribute inputs; provide training and extension services to farmers; and carry out continuous monitoring and evaluation.
Beneficiaries:	2 250 households.
Implementing partners:	Zimbabwe Farmers' Union, Zimbabwe Commercial Farmers' Union, Commercial Farmers' Union and Agritex.
Duration:	April 2010 – October 2013.
Funds requested:	USD 1 039 976.

Livelihoods support for vulnerable groups (joint project with Masvingo Community Skills Empowerment Trust [MACOSET], PENYA Trust, Africare, Development Aid from People to People [DAPP], Farmers' Association of Community Self-Help Investment Groups [FACHIG], Africa Self-help Assistance Programme, Oxfam Great Britain, ADRA Zimbabwe and Zimbabwe Women Rural Development Trust [ZWRDT])

Objectives:	To reduce dependence on food aid and promote food security at the household level for vulnerable groups.
Activities:	Organize input and livestock trade fairs and distribute vouchers to beneficiaries; train and support beneficiaries in post-harvest storage and management; train youth groups in nutrition, gardening and food preservation techniques; promote the production of sustainable tree products; support young people's livelihood projects (such as beekeeping, oil seed pressing and soap making); organize Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools for vulnerable children and young people; support water harvesting at the community and household levels; and mainstream HIV/AIDS awareness into all activities.
Beneficiaries:	60 000 households (including 20 000 children).
Implementing partners:	N/A.
Duration:	April 2010 – April 2013.
Funds requested:	USD 1 094 976.

Improved food security for rural households through conservation agriculture (joint project with ZWRDT, Zimbabwe Trust, Africare, Norwegian People's Aid, World Vision Zimbabwe, Africa 2000 Network, Manicaland Development Association [MDA] and Christian Aid)

Objectives:	To improve the food security of rural households through conservation agriculture.
Activities:	Select beneficiaries; procure and distribute agricultural inputs; train beneficiaries on conservation agriculture, micro-dosing, improved land use and management practices and principles; provide extension support throughout the project; and ensure continuous monitoring and evaluation of the project.
Beneficiaries:	200 000 households.
Implementing partners:	Agritex and Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development.
Duration:	April 2010 – May 2013.
Funds requested:	USD 1 947 476.

Market-based provision of basic agricultural inputs and extension support to smallholder farmers, with free inputs only to the most vulnerable (joint project with Christian Care, New Hope Child Environmental Trust, Africa 2000 Network, Concern, FACHIG, Zimbabwe Project Trust, Zimbabwe Community Development Trust, MACOSET and Goal)

Objectives:	To increase the productivity of smallholder farmers through input and extension support and training on improved crop management practices.
Activities:	Select geographical areas for intervention based on vulnerability assessments; select beneficiaries; procure and distribute inputs on time to the most vulnerable farmers; organize training on production and processing of promoted crops; provide training and extension on improved agronomic practices throughout the project; and monitor the project and conduct impact assessment.
Beneficiaries:	350 000 households.
Implementing partners:	Agritex and Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development.
Duration:	April 2010 – June 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 11 347 476.

Improving nutrition and dietary diversity for vulnerable households through vegetable- and garden-based activities (joint project with ZWRDT, Christian Care, Oxfam Great Britain, Christian Aid, *Action contre la faim*, Africa 2000 Network, World Vision International, MDA and DAPP)

Objectives:	To improve nutrition status through vegetable production; improve dietary diversity; increase knowledge of post-harvest processing; and increase HIV and nutrition knowledge through training.
Activities:	Select beneficiaries; establish gardens; procure and distribute inputs; organize training on vegetable and fruit production and food preparation and preservation; conduct Nutrition Care and Support for PLWHA and Healthy Harvest training; monitor the project; and conduct impact assessments.
Beneficiaries:	80 000 households.
Implementing partners:	Agritex, Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development and Ministry of Health.
Duration:	January – December 2010.
Funds requested:	USD 5 035 476.