



One in three children in Zimbabwe is chronically malnourished.

ZIMBABWE

Background

The recent stabilizing of the political situation in Zimbabwe, following post-election violence in 2008, has allowed for modest gains in humanitarian activities. Joint efforts between the Inclusive Government, formed in February 2009, and aid partners have resulted in improvements in food security, better delivery of social services and the prevention and containment of disease outbreaks.

Although there has been progress over the past two years, significant humanitarian needs remain. One in three children in Zimbabwe is chronically malnourished and nearly 12 000 die each year due to malnutrition-related illness. An estimated 1.7 million people will face severe food insecurity during the peak hunger period of January to March 2011. In addition, there are numerous challenges related to outbreaks of cholera, which killed over 4 000 people in 2008–2009, lack of safe drinking water for one-third of the country, an estimated unemployment rate of 60 percent, and increases in maternal and child mortality.

The introduction of foreign currencies as legal tender has contained the unprecedented levels of inflation that Zimbabwe experienced in 2008 and facilitated economic growth of between 2 and 4 percent in 2010.

Challenges facing food security and livelihoods

The agriculture sector is the backbone of Zimbabwe's economy and provides a livelihood for the vast majority of its population. Since 2000, agricultural productivity and output have fallen significantly as a result of periodic droughts, economic and political constraints and diseases, particularly the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Following a significant increase in the main cereal harvest from 0.5 million tonnes in 2008 to 1.5 million tonnes in 2009, recorded production stagnated in 2010, largely due to a prolonged dry spell and an uneven distribution of rainfall. Massive emigration has kept the population steady for the past decade in spite of natural growth, which has maintained the annual cereal requirement at approximately 2 million tonnes. Zimbabwe has experienced an average annual cereal deficit of 700 000 tonnes over the past five years. Although the total land area currently cultivated in the country has increased by more than 400 000 hectares (28 percent) since 2000, agricultural productivity has decreased significantly over the same period. The near collapse of the livestock industry has made it difficult to deliver animal health services to the estimated 52 percent of rural Zimbabweans who own cattle.

The agriculture sector continues to face many challenges for the coming years. Inputs are costly and in insufficient supply, making them inaccessible to most communal farmers. The Government's capacity for providing extension and training support is limited. There are also labour shortages in the smallholder agriculture sector as a result of emigration and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Priority needs in the sector include: access to agricultural inputs and

extension services; improved productivity and diversification, coupled with improvements in market linkages; and the strengthening of coordination mechanisms and early warning systems.

Cluster response

The Zimbabwe CAP 2011 has adopted a cluster-based approach to provide the strategic focus and flexibility needed to identify adequate responses and build linkages with other activities in the country.

FAO aims to support increased food production and crop diversity through the provision of market-based assistance to vulnerable farmers in the form of inputs and extension services. Efforts will also be made to increase livestock productivity through the improvement of productive and marketing systems and the provision of animal health services.

FAO, as the lead agency of the agriculture sector, has positioned itself to assist national and international organizations and institutions working in Zimbabwe through the provision of a range of services relating to coordination and early warning systems that will include a comprehensive agriculture and food security monitoring system, the carrying out of national crop surveys and the implementation of small pilot projects throughout the country.



PROPOSALS: EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

Total funding requested: USD 25 297 088

Provision of basic agricultural inputs and extension support to smallholder farmers in the communal sector	
Objectives:	To increase the food security of smallholder farmers through the provision of inputs, extension support and the use of improved crop management practices.
Activities:	Target geographical areas (provinces, districts, wards), based on vulnerability assessments; identify, verify and register beneficiaries; design and implement an extension support programme for assisted farmers in collaboration with stakeholders, AGRITEX and farmers' unions; design and implement a market value chain support programme for farmers; monitor programme continuously, throughout the season, to both control implementation and assess impact at household level; and conduct harvest assessments for the assisted farmers.
Beneficiaries:	100 000 farming households.
Implementing partners:	AGRITEX, institutions of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, private sector stakeholders, and NGOs in the Agriculture Cluster.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 19 060 897.

Increasing livestock productivity through improved production systems, strengthened marketing systems, and the provision of animal health services aimed at reducing livestock mortality

Objectives:	To launch smallholder farmers into the cash economy and replenish lost disposable assets for vulnerable rural communities through the promotion of small livestock production (poultry, goats and rabbits) and the development of sustainable production models.
Activities:	Develop small stock production models; implement selected production models; implement a comprehensive animal health services programme in ten selected districts; procure veterinary care drugs/equipment and implement a general veterinary care programme; and produce and distribute extension materials.
Beneficiaries:	5 000 000 farmers (including 1 000 000 smallholder farmers).
Implementing partners:	AGRITEX, Department of Veterinary Services, and NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 2 808 397.

Strengthening coordination mechanisms and early warning systems

Objectives:	To provide 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 inform policy.
Activities:	Upscale coverage of existing agriculture and food security monitoring system to cover all districts in the country; implement national surveys such as the first and second round of the National Crop Assessments and the Zimbabwe Vulnerable Assessment Committee; implement the IPC; and initiate small pilot projects in areas/sectors identified by the technical working groups.
Beneficiaries:	150 institutions.
Implementing partners:	The Ministry of Agriculture, AGRITEX, UN agencies, NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 1 125 397.

Improving crop productivity and commercialization in the smallholder farming sector

Objectives:	To support farmers in achieving food and nutrition security through increased crop productivity; and improve their income base through the establishment of market linkages and the promotion of diversified crop production.
Activities:	Geographical and household targeting; development of specific crop production models; identification of implementing partners; procurement of materials and inputs; implementation of a training programme for extension officers and farmers; and implement selected production models.
Beneficiaries:	100 000 farming households.
Implementing partners:	N/A.
Duration:	January – December 2011.
Funds requested:	USD 2 302 397.