



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY OF DROUGHT-AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS IN ZIMBABWE

From 2015 to 2016 the El Niño weather phenomenon caused severe drought in Zimbabwe and impacted the country's agricultural season. A decline in cereal and livestock production resulted from the extremely dry weather, especially in Manicaland province, which was one of the hardest hit areas. About 24 700 cattle died throughout the country, and Manicaland recorded the highest numbers. This project was implemented to improve the access to water, animal feed and small grain seed for 6 500 vulnerable households impacted by the drought, thereby improving their livelihoods and food security.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Training and interventions were provided to restore the livelihoods and food security of vulnerable, drought-affected households in Manicaland province. Small grain seed was provided to 2 000 crop-producing households, and animal feed was provided to 500 livestock-owning households. To improve water availability for 4 000 households and 24 000 cattle, 20 boreholes were rehabilitated. Additionally, a training and extension component further boosted farmers' agriculture knowledge and drought preparedness. The training covered agronomic production practices; processing; postharvest losses management; agribusiness and livestock production and management; and water management.

IMPACT

The procurement and distribution of animal feed and small grain seed resulted in an improvement of food security at the household level. There was also improved availability of certified seeds and improved extension coverage due to training workshops. The animal feed support resulted in increased cattle off-take, a reduction in deaths due to malnutrition, an improvement in cattle grades and prices for slaughter animals, a reduction of overgrazing and range degradation, and an influx of buyers who introduced competition. The rehabilitated boreholes resulted in improved accessibility to safe water by livestock and the communities.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 390 000

Duration

January 2017 – July 2018

Resource Partner

FAO

Partner

Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement (MLARR)

Beneficiaries

6 500 vulnerable, drought-affected households (2 000 smallholder farmers and 4 500 cattle keepers)



ACTIVITIES

- A total of 10 tonnes of sorghum seed, 5 tonnes cowpea seed and 100 tonnes of basal fertilizer were procured and distributed to 2 000 targeted beneficiaries.
- Beneficiaries were verified and targeted so that the project reached the most vulnerable households.
- 100 extension staff was trained in crop and livestock production and water management through a training of trainers workshop.
- The extension staff later trained 6 766 smallholder crop farmers and 615 livestock farmers.
- 500 livestock farmers were given access to 400 tonnes of stock feed for pen fattening of 2 000 cattle.
- 20 boreholes were identified for rehabilitation.
- After materials were procured, the 20 boreholes were rehabilitated.
- Assessment and reviews took place after the boreholes were rehabilitated, and seed and animal feed were distributed to ensure that food security and livelihoods were improved.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code

TCP/ZIM/3603

Project Title

Emergency support for vulnerable households affected by El Niño-induced drought

Contacts

FAO Representation in Zimbabwe

FAO-SFS@fao.org



Resource Mobilization Division
Marketing, Outreach and Reporting Unit
Reporting@fao.org