

# ZIMBABWE

## KEY FACTS

- Population: 12.7 million
- GDP (PPP) per capita: US\$2 100
- Population below poverty line: 70%
- Labour force by occupation: agriculture 66%, industry 10%, services 24%
- Total land area: 390 580 sq km, bordering Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia
- Total arable land: 8.32%
- Life expectancy: male: 40 years, female: 38 years
- Literacy rate: male: 94.2% , female: 87.2%
- Human Development Index: 145/177

(Source: UN; World Bank)



“The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to directly affect 18-20 percent of the population”

## FAO IN ZIMBABWE

FAO continues to improve coordination of interventions in the food security and agriculture sectors, enhancing information exchange between all stakeholders. In 2006, FAO provided seed and fertilizer to 52 900 vulnerable communal farmers. Support was also provided to irrigation, vaccination, gardening for nutrition, as well as developing an HIV/AIDS strategy for the agriculture sector.

## BACKGROUND

Despite its potential to be a major agricultural producer in the southern African region, Zimbabwe is currently facing a severe food shortage, which is further exacerbated by the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and a declining capacity for basic social services provision. The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe is characterized by the simultaneous presence of acute humanitarian needs and more protracted, chronic vulnerabilities. The most acute needs include those of populations affected by pockets of food insecurity, as well as vulnerable people affected by the Fast Track Land Reform Programme. The more chronic vulnerabilities include inadequate access to basic social services, insufficient agricultural inputs and disrupted livelihoods. The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to directly affect 18-20 percent of the population, with an average of 3 000 deaths per week.

Natural disasters, in particular floods, droughts and earthquakes have become frequent occurrences in Zimbabwe. During the rainy season, areas in the southeast and northwest are regularly affected by flooding. Drought also occurs relatively often and in addition to causing major crop failure, has resulted in extensive death of livestock. Animal deaths are detrimental to agricultural development as livestock are an important source of draught power and difficult to replace.

The negative impact of HIV/AIDS on vulnerable groups and the economy in general cannot be over-emphasized. In households affected by HIV/AIDS, more resources are channelled towards care of the sick and this will reduce the household asset base that is normally geared toward supporting household food deficits. Household production is likely to decline as people in the most productive age group (15-35 years) are increasingly affected by the virus and thus contribute less to family labour and income generation.

## CHALLENGES FACING FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe are facing a number of challenges, which are eroding their production potential. These include limited access and high prices of key inputs, such as fertilizer, seeds and tillage. A lack of cattle dip tanks and dipping chemicals and a further decline in animal health delivery services have resulted in a number of animal deaths, all of which seriously undermine the coping capacity of many rural households.

Agricultural production in Zimbabwe has declined since the Government's Fast Track Land Reform Programme was initiated in 2000. Other factors such as low producer prices (maize), exchange rate controls, lack of inputs and persistent land insecurity have negatively impacted agricultural production, with maize yields halved from approximately 1.3 million

tonnes per hectare in 1986 to approximately 0.8 tonnes per hectare in 2004 in communal areas. A substantial proportion of the land in resettlement areas remains idle with little or no activity.

Between December 2006 and April 2007, an estimated 1.4 million people in rural areas will be unable to meet their food needs. The most vulnerable households are those with orphans, the elderly and/or a chronically ill family head or member, as well as mobile households and those with no current livelihoods or alternative coping mechanisms.

## FAO RESPONSE

In order to improve agricultural production and food security in Zimbabwe, FAO will focus on increasing the productivity of smallholder farmers through seed and fertilizer provision, promotion of improved soil, crop and livestock management practices and support to macro- and micro-irrigation.

Vulnerable households will be assisted in protecting their assets through mass vaccination of poultry against Newcastle Disease, the transfer of dip tank management from the Government to communities to prevent the spread of tick-borne diseases and improved control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in affected areas.

The capacity of the local community and local government institutions to respond to the challenges of HIV/AIDS will be strengthened through training of extension workers and students from the Ministry of Agriculture and increasing access to nutritious foods through small livestock production and the development of vegetable gardens.

## PROPOSALS: FAO EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

**Funding required US\$38 665 000**

### Emergency control of epidemic Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) in Zimbabwe

**Objectives:** To enhance household food security through asset protection by controlling FMD in the provinces of Matabeleland North and South and Masvingo.

**Activities:** Vaccine procurement; conduct a campaign and actual vaccination (two rounds) of the animals and control buffalo-cattle contact; train participants in surveillance, central data capture and animal movement; coordinate meetings to facilitate cross-border harmonization of FMD control activities; collect reports and samples, guidelines, conduct laboratory tests; and analyze and produce reports and maps.

**Beneficiaries:** 40 000 households (250 000 animals).

**Implementing partners:** Department of Veterinary Services (DVS), Ministry of Agriculture.

**Duration:** January – December 2007.

**Funds requested:** US\$890 000.

## Mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS through integrated small livestock production and gardens

**Objectives:** To increase access to nutritious foods and dietary practices; generate income through the sale of garden produce and livestock and increase HIV and nutrition knowledge for improved food and nutrition security.

**Activities:** Training communities in HIV and nutrition, providing agronomy extension support, with a special focus on conservation techniques and providing support in the form of small livestock and vegetable seed packs.

**Beneficiaries:** 1 500 beneficiaries (200 children and 800 women) as well as other groups, including people living with HIV/AIDS, vulnerable male-headed households (500).

**Implementing partners:** Ministry of Agriculture – Agricultural Research and Extension (AREX), District AIDS action committee, Ministry of Health, Cluster Development Services.

**Duration:** January – December 2007.

**Funds requested:** US\$500 000.

## Improved community management of cattle dip tanks and dipping service provision in communal areas in Zimbabwe

**Objectives:** To establish modalities on how the responsibility of dipping cattle in the communal sector can be transferred from the Government to farmers, without compromising the benefits of systems in place in terms of disease surveillance and control.

**Activities:** There are three different options for project implementation, depending on the district: (i) Train and organize farmers to purchase dipping chemicals; support the farmers in organizing themselves and forming a Livestock Development Committee for each dip tank, an Area Livestock District Committee for all dip tanks under an Animal Health Management Centre and District Livestock Development Committee (DLDC) for each district; provide a platform to facilitate negotiations between the DLDC and dip chemical manufacturing companies and support farmers in raising funds for dip chemical clerk salaries; (ii) Operate as usual, but providing the necessary resources to enable effective dipping fees collection and distribution of dipping chemicals to dip tanks and vaccinating half of the dip tanks in the district for tick-borne diseases; and (iii) Provide no intervention but collect the same statistics as for under the previous options.

**Beneficiaries:** 150 community dip tanks in three districts.

**Implementing partners:** DVS, Ministry of Agriculture, communal farmers.

**Duration:** January – December 2007.

**Funds requested:** US\$185 000.

## Newcastle disease control in rural areas of Zimbabwe

**Objectives:** To protect assets through support to the Department of Veterinary Services in the control of Newcastle disease in communal areas of Zimbabwe.

**Activities:** Carry out mass vaccinations of chickens (approx. 11 000 000) in targeted districts, where there have been outbreaks of the disease. This will be done with the available vaccine that the DVS Field Services is planning to procure locally in Zimbabwe. Support will also be given to the delivery of twelve vaccines to the districts and the actual vaccination of poultry by DVS. Monitoring and evaluation will be conducted during and after vaccination.

**Beneficiaries:** 900 000 households.

**Implementing partners:** DVS, Ministry of Agriculture, NGOs.

**Duration:** January – December 2007.

**Funds requested:** US\$290 000.

## Provision of basic agricultural inputs and extension support to smallholder farmers in the communal sector

**Objectives:** To increase the productivity of smallholder farmers through input provision and promotion of improved crop management practices.

**Activities:** Target geographical areas based on vulnerability assessments; identify, verify and register beneficiaries; source and procure inputs, including seeds and fertilizers, in a timely manner; deliver and distribute these inputs to enable farmers to plant on one hectare and identify the beneficiaries' extension support needs in collaboration with key stakeholders. The project will design and implement an extension support programme for beneficiary farmers; and monitor this programme throughout the season to control implementation, assess impact at household level and conduct a harvest assessment for the assisted farmers.

**Beneficiaries:** 200 000 households.

**Implementing partners:** NGOs, Ministry of Agriculture – AREX, rural district councils.

**Duration:** January – December 2007.

**Funds requested:** US\$36 000 000.

## Improved food security and livelihoods for rural communities through advanced land use and management practices (conservation farming)

**Objectives:** To improve production and land use systems of communal farmers through a full support package, including continued extension and soil conservation methods.

**Activities:** FAO will work with the three farmers' unions, the Zimbabwe Farmers' Union (ZFU), the Zimbabwe Commercial Farmers' Union (ZCFU) and the Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) in implementing the project. Private sector companies will complement these activities through contract growing. The companies will pre-fund inputs for the crops and enable farmers to increase returns on their farming operations, reducing vulnerability. The cash crop production will follow the same agricultural practices as the food crop production and cropping plans and rotations will include all crops.

**Beneficiaries:** 1 000 communal farmers.

**Implementing partners:** Ministry of Agriculture – AREX, ZFU, ZCFU and CFU.

**Duration:** January – December 2007.

**Funds requested:** US\$800 000.

