



# ZIMBABWE RURAL VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT July / August 2006

## **1.0 Background**

In Zimbabwe, vulnerability and food security assessments and monitoring have traditionally on a regular basis focused on rural areas, where more than 65 percent of the population live, mostly in communal areas. The majority of whom are poor. However, since independence in 1980, the urban population of Zimbabwe has nearly tripled, from an estimated 1.6 million in 1982, to almost 4.4 million in 2006. At present, some 35 percent of the nation's population live in urban areas, compared to 22 percent in 1980. This figure is expected to reach nearly 50 percent by 2020.

The nature and prevalence of shocks differ across rural and urban settings and they also differ in terms of their exposure to shocks that threaten their food security – both in terms of the probability of an event and its magnitude, and their options for coping with these shocks. Expanding the scope of vulnerability assessments to include urban areas means clarifying these differences and becoming sensitive to key food-security issues that are typically urban.

The most recent baseline study that was focused on urban areas was done in 2003 and was mainly geared at exploring the prevailing poverty conditions and at informing policy decisions. Other attempts to understand and monitor urban poverty and food insecurity have been fragmented, circumscribed to the two main towns of Harare and Bulawayo and have not fully explained poverty and livelihood vulnerabilities in the urban areas, as they were meant for specific programming needs.

The 2003 urban vulnerability report identifies categories of vulnerability to food insecurity in the urban and peri-urban areas. The underprivileged urban population is often vulnerable to food insecurity due to a variety of risk factors that include inflation, availability and cost of social services, access to employment opportunities, availability of informal income earning activities, currency devaluations, cost of transportation, decline in socio-economic welfare deliveries, etc.

Meanwhile, since the latest baseline study, many factors have impacted on urban populations and livelihoods, imposing changes that need to be understood so that policy interventions and programmes can achieve desired objectives.

The Urban Clean-up Operation last year resulted in the disruption of the informal sector, movements of people within urban areas and also to rural areas. Given that about 80% of the adult population depends on the informal sector for their livelihoods, the operation is likely to have had a significant impact on the livelihoods of not only the people in urban areas but also those in rural areas who were depending on remittances. To most people the movement was sudden; it resulted in the disruption of social networks and in some cases children dropping out of school.

## **2.0 Justification:**

The socio-economic situation in Zimbabwe has been very dynamic in the past five years such that every year has been drastically unique from the others. There is thus mounting demand from decision-makers and practitioners for timely and accurate information and analysis on the urban poor. With the economic decline, humanitarian crisis and HIV/AIDS as predominant features of the current situation, there is need for

a broad livelihoods model that would increase the understanding of food security conditions and livelihoods vulnerability.

The 2006 assessment will provide a deeper understanding of the changes in both rural and urban household vulnerability and livelihoods patterns in the country. These changes will be analyzed in the context of food insecurity, HIV/AIDS, Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs) status, child protection, gender, education, health, water and sanitation issues.

This assessment unlike previous assessments will also focus on nutrition status of both children and adults. The 2006 assessment will also be followed by a more systematic modular focused monitoring exercise to be conducted and reported upon on a quarterly basis.

On the other hand donors and NGOs, have become more interested in information on urban vulnerable groups due to the rapid growth in the urban population and a staggering poverty affecting an estimated 70 percent of the population

The proposed vulnerability assessment is therefore aimed at filling gaps in information and analysis, through the pursuance of a methodology that will add value to existing initiatives so far done in Zimbabwe. This will provide decision-makers with essential information on the population that is vulnerable to food insecurity, percentage of the urban population that is falling under, or coming close to, a minimum threshold, that will help in the design of effective responses or pre-emptive actions to keep urban populations above this threshold. Finally, the key tasks of urban vulnerability assessment are to understand and monitor urban people's vulnerability and develop refined analytical methodologies specifically linked to ensuring that ongoing Programme activities are done accurately, effectively and efficiently.

Ideally this would enable a comparison with and complement the current (2006/07) ZIMVAC vulnerability assessment to be carried out in the rural areas.

The **objectives** of the current urban vulnerability assessment are:

- To investigate changes to urban livelihoods over the past three years in order to better understand the key factors that contribute to urban vulnerability and food insecurity.
- To gain an understanding of urban livelihoods in low-income areas focusing on household sources of income, food and expenditure patterns
- Examine the minimum sectorial information that affect urban livelihoods such as the gender dimension, urban, agriculture, rural and urban linkages, education, asset ownership, child protection, health, HIV and AIDS, and access to services such as water, electricity, public transport, waste disposal, social services, etc
- Identify major challenges, constraints and priorities of the medium to poor urban populations and their coping strategies and opportunities for improving their livelihoods.
- To identify geographic areas and socio-economic groups likely to be food insecure in the current year.
- To estimate the number of food insecure households (chronic and transitory), where they live, their characteristics and possible ways to address their food insecurity.

- To examine the linkages of food security in urban livelihoods to various sectors, including the gender dimension, education, child protection, health, HIV and AIDS and water and sanitation.
- To identify key variables including indicators and institutional arrangements that will be monitored during the year in order to monitor changes in food security and livelihoods.

In order to accomplish this assessment, the ZimVAC is receiving the support of regional experts from RVAC who will join the local experts in providing leadership the stakeholder dialogue leading to design of sample frame, choice of methods, data analysis and reporting.

Moreover the joint national and regional technical team will also build national capacity by training some of the ZIMVAC members in survey design, sampling and data analysis to ensure sustainability of the current process and futures steps, including approaches to monitoring and follow up activities ( ie, sectoral assessments).

Financial resources for accomplishment of the assessment will be drawn primarily from the stakeholders and partners at national level and those with particular interest on the study, including donor community and regional food security bodies.

### **3.0 Brief description of methodology**

The assessment of the urban areas will be carried out in phases in terms of time, geographic coverage and completion throughout the year, using the criteria of population density, livelihood concentration/ relative position of the town to overall economy, coupled with availability of secondary data and adequacy of resources.

The first round of assessments will cover the provincial capitals (Harare and Chitungwiza, Bulawayo, Mutare, Gweru, Masvingo, Chinhoyi, Bindura and Marondera), and will focus on peri-urban areas, high-density suburbs (old and new) and the squatter settlements.

Depending on resources, the second round of assessments will cover, mining towns (ie, Kwekwe, Zvishavane, Hwange), border towns (ie, Beitbridge, Chipinge, Plumtree), holiday resort towns (ie, Victoria Falls, Kariba, Chimanimani) and growth points (ie, Gokwe, Gutu).

With the understanding that each urban area is unique, a thorough analysis of secondary information will precede the assessment and will consist of compilation of previous urban studies, sectorial information, on-going monitoring of existing programmes and sectorial plans.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and tables will be used for combining different data sets in spatial manner and provide a visual representation of different areas.

The second step will apply participatory methods in order to gather qualitative information on livelihoods, on trends and typical conditions prevailing in different settlement areas. This step will be used in combination with the secondary data analysis as one of the basis for planning the formal survey, in terms of sample frame and questionnaire design.

As a third step a stratified sampling of households for structured interviews will be used to collect livelihood information.

The qualitative analysis will be done by assessing converging information / evidences gathered through group interview using a semi-structured questionnaire. The key informants will include NGO's, Government Ministries, service organizations such as health, water and sanitation, infrastructure, education; local organizations, social/traditional and religious leaders.

A statistical analysis will be carried out, including descriptive statistics by strata (settlements) and by the domain (urban districts?), trend analysis to identify the dynamics of food insecurity and the association / cross-tabulation of variables that describe livelihoods and vulnerability issues.

The information to be collected in the surveys and rapid appraisals are to provide the following indications:

- Dependence of the communities on wage labour;
- Availability and type of employment (formal, informal, legal and illegal);
- Preponderance of women seeking wage labour;
- Informal networks;
- Formal networks;
- Formal safety nets ( their identity, address and linkages)
- Price trends and their relation to the food access;
- Food availability;
- Child care conditions;
- Access to public services (such as health and sanitation);
- Downstream impacts;
- Environmental contamination;
- Population density;
- Legal obstacles and institutional settings;
- Patron/client relations in the urban settings;
- Food consumption outside of the home;
- Shocks which change the character of the urban setting;
- Access to and extent of urban agriculture;
- Rural urban linkages

#### **4.0 Expected output and outcomes**

- a. Clean, reliable and user friendly database with
  - Secondary data from previous assessments and sectorial reports
  - All the data and aspects covered by the current survey/ assessment.
- b. A complete report which includes:
  - Tables/graphs/maps of relevant indicators leading to food security analysis- to be included in the ZimVAC report
  - Clear identification of vulnerable groups and related formal/informal access conditions
  - Identification of coping and survival mechanisms as well as social and community relations
  - Identification of social and economic conditions with gender focus including housing, health, nutrition, sanitation

- Identification of institutional issues and service delivery factors (education, culture, religion, associative activities, self help, NGO/UN/GoZ interventions etc)
- Graphically illustrated sections and descriptions concerning food and non-food security status and the implications for intervention.
- Suggestion of appropriate short term and medium term modalities for interventions

### **Deliverables**

1. A comprehensive Urban Livelihood and Vulnerability Report
2. Indication of steps for Programme implementation and Coordination.
3. Design of monitoring approach suitable for urban settings and programs
4. Capacity building for ZIMVAC in survey design, data analysis and subsequent monitoring process.

### **Time of Assessment**

The assessment will be scheduled for July 2006 and the Preliminary report will be ready by end of August 2006.

## Budget.

ZIMBABWE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT 2006 (ZIMVAC)					IN-KIND		
URBAN ASSESSMENT					TOTAL	TOTAL	
Activity/Item	Rate/day	Quantity/No	No of DAYS	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL	
<b>A. Survey Instruments Testing and other Costs</b>					<b>ZW\$</b>	<b>US\$</b>	<b>US\$</b>
Field Test questionnaire (bus hiring)	75,000,000	90	1	75,000,000	708	708	
Questionnaire duplication costs	110,000	2000	1	440,000,000	4,151	4,151	
General Expenses e.g. Communication				50,000,000	472	472	
<b>SUB Total A</b>				<b>565,000,000</b>	<b>5,330</b>	<b>5,330</b>	
<b>B. Training:</b>							
Resource persons/ Supervisors (DSA)	7,630,000	6	6	274,680,000	2,520	2,520	
Conference expenses (URBAN)	1,700,000	65	5	552,500,000	5,069	WFP	
Enumerators DSA (URBAN)	7,000,000	40	5	1,400,000,000	12,844	WFP	
Transport allowance to and from debriefing meetings	4,000,000	40	2	320,000,000	2,936	2,936	
Stationery				400,000,000	3,670	3,670	
<b>Sub total B</b>				<b>2,947,180,000</b>	<b>27,038.35</b>	<b>9,126</b>	
<b>C. Field Work:</b>							
National Supervisors	7,630,000	10	12	915,600,000	8,400	8,400.00	
Enumerators (DSA) (URBAN)	7000000	40	12	3,360,000,000	30,826	30,826	
Support Staff - Drivers	7,630,000	20	12	1,831,200,000	16,800	WFP??	
Community Health Workers	600,000	20	12	144,000,000	1,321	1,321	
Vehicle Hire & Fuel	15,000,000	20	12	3,600,000,000	33,028	WFP??	
Fuel for gvt vehicles	10,000,000	5	12	600,000,000	5,505	5,505	
Conference expenses FOR DEBRIEFNG MEETING	3,000,000	65	1	195,000,000	1,789	WFP	
Data captures allowance	5,450,000	20	10	1,090,000,000	10,000	10,000	
<b>Sub total C</b>				<b>11,735,800,000</b>	<b>107,667.89</b>	<b>56,051</b>	
<b>D. Report Writing and dissemination:</b>							
Regional Facilitators	32,700,000	2	10	654000000	6,000	WFP??	
Data Analyst/Consultant	27,250,000	1	30	817,500,000	7,500	7,500	
Assistant Data analyst	16,350,000	1	25	408,750,000	3,750	3,750	
Conference expenses	10,000,000	30	2	600,000,000	5,505	5,505	
Report production & dissemination				1,000,000,000	9,174	9,174	
<b>Sub total D</b>				<b>3,480,250,000</b>	<b>31,928.90</b>	<b>25,928.90</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL (A+B+C+D)</b>				<b>18,728,230,000</b>	<b>171,965.33</b>	<b>96,436</b>	