



Zimbabwe

Nairobi , 5 December 2018

SITUATION

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET) has warned that there is an increased probability of drought induced El Niño weather conditions expected in the southern part of Africa; including Zimbabwe, during the upcoming 2018/2019 agricultural season. In Zimbabwe, Matabeleland North and South and Masvingo Provinces will be most affected.

Based on the El Niño forecast (Oct 2018-Jan 2019) and looking at similar trends in previous years, below-average rainfall and a late start of erratic rains will lead to crop failure. Violent storms, prolonged dry spells, flash floods and tropical cyclones cannot be ruled out as the season progresses.

In Zimbabwe, the situation is compounded by economic challenges as some poor households in deficit producing areas in the South, West and extreme North of the country are already experiencing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) food insecurity outcomes.

As the lean season intensifies food prices are also on the increase, especially on staple cereal food items.

Migratory trans boundary pests and other diseases are expected to continue to be a problem. The fall army worm is expected to continue to remain a threat to crop production in the coming season and other pests including quelea birds, large grain stalk borer, and wild animal attacks on crops, livestock and humans will be a possible threat. Typical livestock diseases such as foot and mouth, anthrax and others will also likely affect herds in the affected Provinces, with Newcastle disease a potential threat to poultry, likely to be experienced.

Affected households are already reducing the number of meals and portions of food taken per day and consuming less preferred foods as the 2018-19 lean season gets under way. Typical livelihood strategies such as casual labour, self-employment, petty trade, and remittances are being employed and intensified. However, due to the constrained economic environment, household incomes remain low, affecting poor household's access to food and other basic goods and services.

NEEDS

The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZIMVAC) 2018 report estimates that 1.5 million people in rural and urban areas require food assistance during the lean season. Poor households have exhausted own-produced food stocks in typical deficit-producing areas and some surplus areas as a result of poor harvest. More specifically, communities in Matabeleland North, South and Masvingo are in urgent need of food assistance.

Efforts need to be concentrated on child and women headed households, lactating mothers, poor households as well as people with disabilities.

Communities remain in urgent need of humanitarian food assistance support required to help poor households meet their basic food requirements. There is also need to save livelihoods, protect livestock and improve access to safe drinking water to reduce incidents of water borne diseases.

STAKEHOLDERS

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National government	District Governments are coordinating meetings with all stakeholders.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UN Agencies	Cash transfers and in-kind distribution of food

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INGOs	Planning to do cash transfers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National NGOs	Cash transfers and livelihoods projects
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Civil society groups	Have started needs assessments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Faith based groups	Assisting with needs assessments

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by Zimbabwe Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare with support from UN Agencies WFP and FAO. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, ACT Zimbabwe forum will take part in coordination meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (in the Food Assistance Working Group) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

ACT Alliance

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Zimbabwe Forum has been working in Zimbabwe since 2003, and is now helping/planning to help people affected by the drought through cash transfers together with Oxfam, UN agencies and Plan International led by the Government.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Zimbabwe Forum works in areas affected by the drought, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Zimbabwe Forum is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Zimbabwe Forum is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT Zimbabwe forum has identified a gap in food assistance and livelihoods protection and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The ACT Zimbabwe forum is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide food assistance using mobile money transfers and supporting livestock protection through supplementary feeding provision for the livestock to ensure that the drought affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to food security and livelihoods protection.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Zimbabwe Forum is ready to respond, providing e-vouchers to support food access as well as supplement access to livestock feeds to 5000 affected households in the coming months.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Furthermore, ACT Zimbabwe Forum will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the drought are amplified.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org)

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