



Zimbabwe

Nairobi , 23 September 2019

SITUATION

Zimbabwe is currently facing a severe drought caused by poor rains that affected food harvests between October 2018 and May 2019.

In August 2019, the government declared the 2018/19 drought and cropping season “a State of National Disaster” and appealed for international humanitarian assistance. Reports from WFP estimate that at least 2 million people are affected.

In Zimbabwe, food security is a major concern as a large proportion of poor households have exhausted own-produced food stocks and are currently in urgent need of food assistance in in Buhera, Matabeleland North, South and Masvingo areas.

Predictions for September/October 2019 indicate that a high number of farmers in surplus-producing areas are anticipated to also experience food crisis and will be classified into Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Additionally, shortage of water for domestic and livestock use is negatively affecting many livelihood activities and resulted in poor livestock body conditions.

The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee report 2019 (ZIMVAC) estimates that 1.5million in rural and urban areas require food assistance during the upcoming lean season. According to Zimbabwe Vulnerability Committee (ZIMVAC), poor farmer households have little or no food stocks and they are now more likely to be reliant on market purchases for food despite their limited purchasing power (since Zimbabwe is also facing deteriorating macroeconomic conditions).

In addition, market supplies are significantly below average, specifically for maize grain, across the country and maize grain / maize flour prices continue to increase, putting staple foods out of reach of most poor households. The prices of the staple food (maize) have increased by 31 percent higher compared to the same time last year. The severe drought crisis is coupled with an economic crisis in Zimbabwe hence worsening the situation for poor households.

Zimbabwe Economic Crisis:

The uncertainty that arose after the pronouncement of the Statutory Instrument 2019 -142 that pronounced the Zimbabwean Dollar to be the sole currency for legal tender purposes created some ambiguity and the currency is facing shortages and limiting household market access.

Using mobile money transfers increases the cost up to 40 percent above cash prices. In addition, fuel price increase on nearly a weekly basis and this is also driving up transport and basic commodity costs. Livelihoods across the country remain very constrained and households have limited opportunities to participate in both formal and informal markets.

NEEDS**STAKEHOLDERS**

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National government	Coordinating response teams and agencies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UN Agencies	Fundraising for provision of food
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INGOs	Food provision
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red Cross Red Crescent Movement	Providing medical care to affected communities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National NGOs	Providing cash and in-kind assistance to affected communities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Civil society groups	Lobbying Government for pro poor development policies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Faith based groups	Providing psychosocial assistance to affected communities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected communities	Are adapting coping mechanisms like reduction of number of meals per day.

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare with support from UN Agencies WFP and FAO are currently coordinating the emergency response. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (in the Wash and Food Cluster 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 Alliance has been working in Zimbabwe since 2003, now helping/planning to help people affected by the drought
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance 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 Alliance is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance 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 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 forum is planning to submit a funding proposal to provide food assistance using e-vouchers and supporting livestock protection through supplementary feeding provision for the livestock to ensure that the drought affected persons' basic needs are met concerning food security and livelihoods protection.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance 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 Alliance 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)

For further information, please contact:

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