



THE ZIMBABWE RESILIENCE BUILDING FUND

High Frequency Monitoring Report

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The purpose of the ZRBF High Frequency Monitoring Bulletin is to avail real time data and information on identified and agreed trigger indicators for the activation of the crisis modifier, performance monitoring, programming and other decisions for the overall ZRBF adaptive programme management. Information presented in this bulletin is readily available in the HFM Online Database, accessible using this url

<https://197.155.231.242/undp/ZRBF/HFMS/index.php>

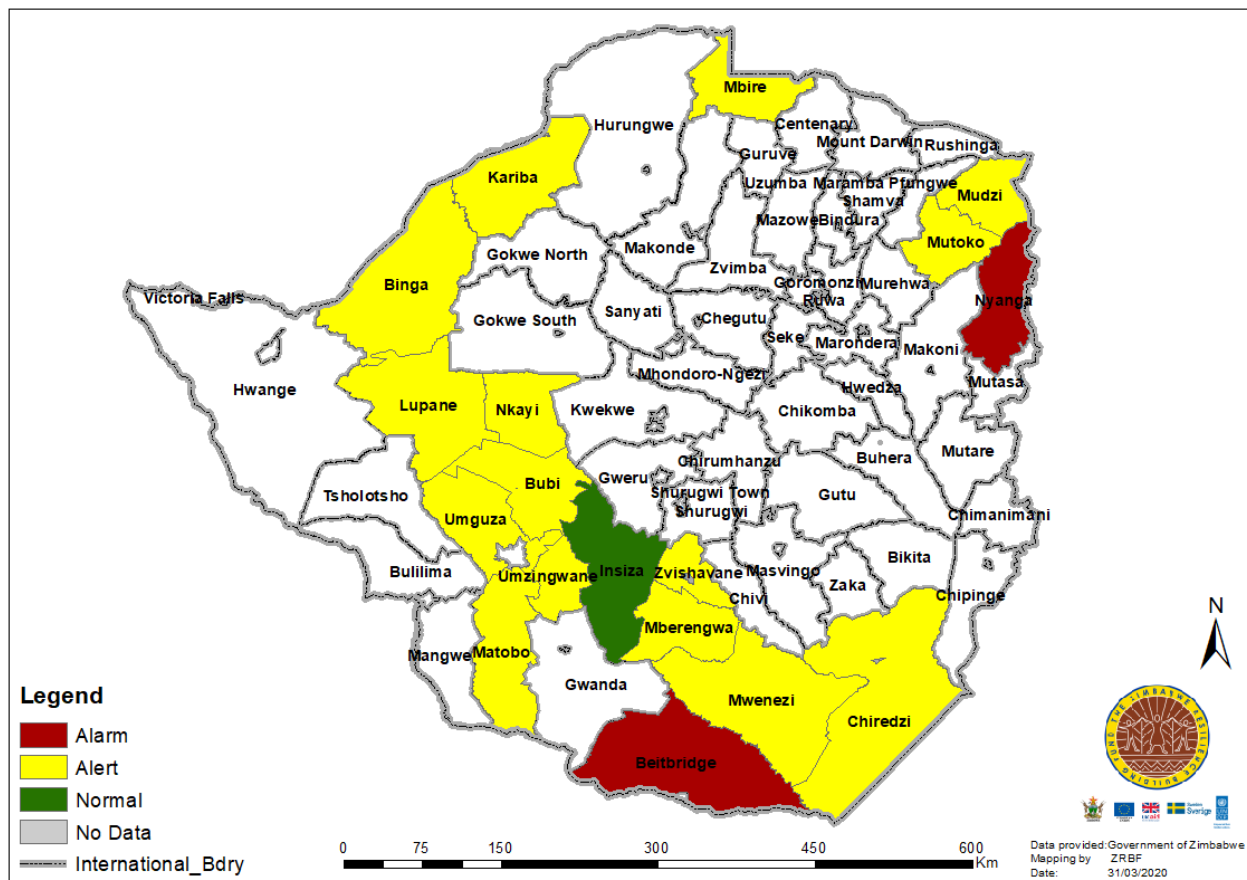
The bulletin contains official information for the month of March 2020 collected from various sources by ZRBF partners and analysed by ZRBF PMU. The High Frequency Monitoring Bulletin is a product of collaboration between the ZRBF Partners and other government agencies. For questions and comments regarding this bulletin, kindly get in touch with **Vhusomuzi Sithole** (vhusomuzi.sithole@undp.org), **Shupikai Mutyambizi** (mutyafaith@gmail.com).

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Overall Results and Implications

Summary Classification



Key Highlights

According to the High Frequency Monitoring (HFM) classification, all districts were in the Alert category except for Insiza (Normal), Beitbridge and Nyanga (Alarm). The following micro indicators which in the Emergency Stage, drove this overall classification.

- Common diarrhoea cases in Beitbridge, Binga, Bubi, Chiredzi, Lupane, Mbire, Mudzi, Mutoko, Mwenezi, Nkayi, Nyanga, Umguza, Umzingwane and Zvishavane.
- Crops pest and diseases outbreak in Binga.
- Mid-season dry spells in Chiredzi, Beitbridge, Mberengwa, Mudzi, Mutoko, Zvishavane
- Cattle price Nyanga
- Maize Price Mutoko
- Pearl Millet Price Mudzi
- Rapoko Price Mbire

Table 1 below summarises these trends in the overall classification of all 18 districts over the last 12 months.

Table 1: Overall Classification of the 18 districts

| Month | Beitbridge | Bubi | Binga | Chiredzi | Insiza | Kariba | Lupane | Matobo | Mberengwa | Mbire | Mudzi | Mutoko | Mwenezi | Nkayi | Nyanga | Umguza | Umzingwane | Zvishavane |
|----------|------------|-------|-------|----------|---------|---------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|-------|--------|---------|-------|--------|--------|------------|------------|
| Mar-20 | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alert | Normal | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| Feb-20 | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | No data | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| Jan-20 | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| Dec-19 | Alarm | Alarm | Alarm | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| Nov-19 | Alarm | Alert | Alarm | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alarm | Alarm | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alarm | Alert |
| Oct-19 | Alert | Alarm | Alarm | Alarm | Alert | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alarm | Alarm | Alert | Alarm | Alarm | Alert |
| Sept-19 | Alert | Alarm | Alert | Alarm | Alert | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| Aug-19 | Alert | Alert | Alarm | Alarm | Alert | Alarm | Alert | Alarm | Alarm | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alarm | Alarm | Alert | Alarm | Alert | Alert |
| July-19 | Alarm | Alert | Alarm | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| June-19 | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | No data | Alert |
| May-19 | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | No data | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| Apr-19 | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | No data | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| Mar - 19 | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | No data | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert |

2. Status Update Macro-Indicators

2.1 Vegetation Condition Index

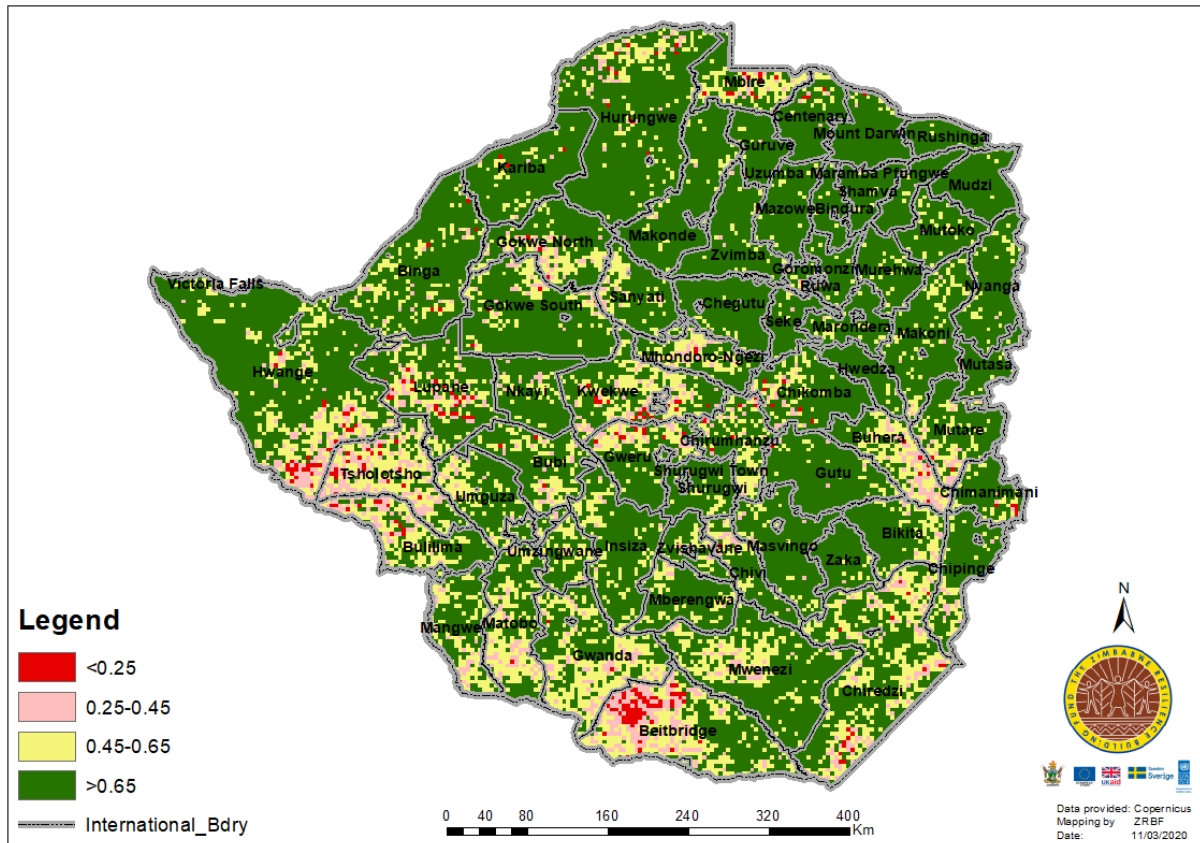


Figure 1: Vegetation Condition Index for March 2020

The Vegetation Condition Index shows an improving vegetation condition in all districts of the country. 14 districts were in the normal category while the other 4 were in the Alert.

- Normal (Binga, Bubi, Insiza, Kariba, Lupane, Mberengwa, Mudzi, Mutoko, Mwenezi, Nkayi, Nyanga, Umguza, Umzingwane and Zvishavane)
- Alert (Beitbridge, Chiredzi, Matobo and Mbire)

| District | VCI value | Crisis Modifier |
|------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Beitbridge | 0.56 | Alert |
| Binga | 0.83 | Normal |
| Bubi | 0.73 | Normal |
| Chiredzi | 0.63 | Alert |
| Insiza | 0.75 | Normal |
| Kariba | 0.92 | Normal |
| Lupane | 0.69 | Normal |
| Matobo | 0.64 | Alert |
| Mberengwa | 0.75 | Normal |
| Mbire | 0.63 | Alert |
| Mudzi | 0.86 | Normal |
| Mutoko | 0.81 | Normal |
| Mwenezi | 0.74 | Normal |
| Nkayi | 0.84 | Normal |
| Nyanga | 0.84 | Normal |
| Umguza | 0.74 | Normal |
| Umzingwane | 0.72 | Normal |
| Zvishavane | 0.73 | Normal |

3. Summary of Broad Classification: Micro Trigger Indicators

The micro-indicator data from the 18 reported districts reflect conditions in the four broad classes of indicators, biophysical, production and access indicators, were mostly in the Alert category slightly improving from the categories for the past month.

- Biophysical indicators were in Alert for 15 districts and Normal in Bubi, Binga and Mwenezi. Pasture availability has significantly improved due to the rains received, although it is still in the Alarm for Beitbridge and Insiza .
- Production indicators were in the Alert category in 13 districts and Alert in five (5). There has been an improvement in the livestock body condition, owing to the improvements in pasture availability and the fodder and stock feed interventions under the crisis modifier. Common diarrhoea reported cases increased and are high across all the districts. Dysentery was reported in all the districts and cases have significantly increased from last month. Chiredzi, Lupane and Mberengwa recorded livestock poverty deaths but all cases below 50 deaths.
- Access indicators were in the Alert category in all 18 Districts. Communities in Bubi district are surviving on one (1) meal a day. Livestock trekking distance and distance to water sources per households are within normal and Alert range of 1 to 3km.
- Six (6) districts were in the Alarm category for trade indicators. Trade indicators have shifted from Normal category in most districts in the past 2 months to Alert in 10 Districts. Only Lupane and Matobo were in the normal category and these districts have pegged commodity prices in USD. The change in the exchange rate from 17 to 25 ZWL to the USD affected cattle and small livestock prices in Kariba, Mbire and Beitbridge. Other districts increased the prices of cattle, sheep and goat in response to the market distortions prevailing.

Table 2: Trigger Indicator summary for March 2020

| District | Biophysical Indicators | Production Indicators | Access Indicators | Trade Indicators |
|------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Beitbridge | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| Binga | Normal | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| Bubi | Normal | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| Chiredzi | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| Insiza | Alert | Normal | Alert | Alert |
| Kariba | Alert | Normal | Alert | Alarm |
| Lupane | Alert | Alert | Alert | Normal |
| Matobo | Alert | Normal | Alert | Normal |
| Mberengwa | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| Mbire | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alarm |
| Mudzi | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| Mutoko | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| Mwenezi | Normal | Normal | Alert | Alert |
| Nkayi | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alarm |
| Nyanga | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alarm |
| Umguza | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alarm |
| Umzingwane | Alert | Normal | Alert | Alarm |
| Zvishavane | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert |

Detailed Micro Trigger Indicators Update and Proposed Mitigatory Activities

4.1. Biophysical Trigger indicators

Table 3: Biophysical trigger indicator summary for March 2020

| Biophysical Indicators | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| District | Pastures Availability | Rainfall | State of Water Sources | Mid-season Dry Spells |
| Beitbridge | 2 | 5 | 3 | 26 |
| Binga | 3 | 58.5 | 3 | 0 |
| Bubi | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| Chiredzi | 3 | 3.71 | 3 | 27 |
| Insiza | 2 | 11.5 | 3 | 0 |
| Kariba | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Lupane | 3 | 120 | 3 | 0 |
| Matobo | 3 | No data | 2 | 0 |
| Mberengwa | 3 | 26.26 | 2 | 25 |
| Mbire | 4 | 0 | 2 | 15 |
| Mudzi | 3 | 0 | 4 | 30 |
| Mutoko | 4 | 1.1 | 3 | 25 |
| Mwenezi | 3 | 24.92 | 3 | 2 |
| Nkayi | 3 | 18 | 2 | 0 |
| Nyanga | 3 | No data | No data | No Data |
| Umguza | 3 | 355.1 | 3 | 8 |
| Umzingwane | 3 | 0 | 3 | 12 |
| Zvishavane | 3 | 6.85 | 3 | 23 |

- Rainfall was recorded in 11 districts, Umguza received 355mm and is in Alarm category because of the potential for flooding. The Alert categorisation in Lupane district is a proxy for potential flooding as well.
- Pasture availability was in Alarm in Insiza and Beitbridge, which received very low and insignificant rainfalls. 14 districts were in the Alert Category up from 11 in the previous month.
- Five (5) districts were in the Alarm category with 30-65% of the boreholes functioning, this is an increase from four (4) districts in Alarm the previous month. Thirteen districts were in Alert category,
- Six (6) districts were in the emergency category for Mid-season dry spell with dry days of above 20. This is attributed to the end of the rainy season which came in late and is exiting fast.

Proposed Mitigation Activities

The amount of rainfall received across the target districts remains very low. This has negative implication for farming livelihoods and livestock pastures. Farmers are encouraged to step up the production and preservation of fodder. ZRBF crisis modifier should continue to support farmers with subsidized feed during these critical times.

The Civil Protection committee in Umguza where excess rainfall was received should be on high alert for potential flooding and ensure they receive adverse weather alerts from the Meteorological Services Department. Awareness campaigns should be carried out in high risk areas while flood risk management measures such as planting trees to stabilize slopes and implementing strict land use should be considered by the local authority.

ZRBF partners using crisis modifier funding should continue with borehole rehabilitation to improve the water situation with priority given to Kariba, Matobo, Mbire, Mberengwa and Nkayi.

4.2 Production Trigger indicators

Table 4: Production trigger indicator summary for March 2020

| Production Indicators | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| District | Crops Pest and Diseases Outbreaks | Crop Condition | Livestock Body Condition | Number Livestock Poverty Deaths | Reported Cases of Livestock Diseases | Reported Cases of Waterborne Diseases |
| Beitbridge | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 32 | 589 |
| Binga | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 256 |
| Bubi | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 80 | 123 |
| Chiredzi | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 1481 |
| Insiza | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 153 |
| Kariba | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 728 |
| Lupane | 2 | 2 | 2 | 23 | 6 | 411 |
| Matobo | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 168 |
| Mberengwa | 2 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 79 | 568 |
| Mbire | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 146 | 853 |
| Mudzi | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 27 | 984 |
| Mutoko | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 31 | 652 |
| Mwenezi | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | No data |
| Nkayi | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 97 | 321 |
| Nyanga | No data | No data | 2 | 0 | 81 | 499 |
| Umguza | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 603 |
| Umzingwane | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 142 |
| Zvishavane | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 93 | 504 |

- Binga was in emergency category for crop pests and diseases with Fall Army worm affecting more than 60% of the crop.
- There has been a significant improvement in Livestock poverty deaths as only 36 recorded deaths in three (3) districts. The rest of the districts recorded zero (0) deaths.
- Livestock diseases have reduced tangibly with no diseases of economic importance recorded and low numbers of other diseases reported. Only Mbire had 146 cases of livestock diseases putting it in the Alarm category, of which 130 were lumpy skin. Six districts had zero reported cases of livestock diseases. The drop in reported cases of livestock diseases can be attributed to the Acaricides support ZRBF is rolling out across the districts which is seeing more cattle dipped.
- Seventeen districts were in the Emergency category for water borne diseases. Dysentery cases increased across all the districts as compared to the previous month.
- Livestock Body condition was in Alarm category in Matobo and Beitbridge which also had deteriorating pasture availability. 14 districts were in the Alert category.

Proposed Mitigatory Activities

The army worm recorded in Binga poses serious threat to farmers' crops and household food security. Farmers are encouraged to routinely scout their fields and come in with control measures. They should also work closely with extension officers in their areas so that they can be advised on the most suitable chemicals to use.

There is need for continued support in community and household adherence to cattle dipping and vaccinations for prevention and treatment of livestock diseases currently being implemented under the ZRBF crisis modifier.

Almost all the target districts are in the emergency category for water borne diseases. Added to this is the threat posed by the COVID 19 pandemic first recorded in Harare but with potential to spread to all the areas. This threatens to overwhelm the health system. Beyond community based health and hygiene awareness campaigns, there is need to escalate this crisis so that these local public health indicators can be included into the national WASH sector COVID 19 contingency plan. Such a coordinated approach will ensure resources are deployed to where they are needed the most.

4.3 Access Trigger Indicators

Table 5: Access trigger indicator summary for March 2020

| Access Indicators | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| District | Distances to Water Sources for Households | Number of Meals | School Attendance | Water for Livestock Trekking Distance |
| Beitbridge | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Binga | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Bubi | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Chiredzi | 1.66 | 2 | 3 | 1.96 |
| Insiza | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Kariba | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Lupane | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Matobo | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Mberengwa | 1.77 | 2 | 4 | 1.81 |
| Mbire | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Mudzi | 1.14 | 2 | 4 | 1.58 |
| Mutoko | 1.2 | 2 | 4 | 1.6 |
| Mwenezi | 2.69 | 2 | 3 | 2.76 |
| Nkayi | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Nyanga | 0.5 | 2 | No data | 7 |
| Umguzua | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Umzingwane | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Zvishavane | 1.45 | 2 | 4 | 1.48 |

- Distance to water sources was in Alert category in 14 districts down from 13. and four (4) districts have an average of 1km distance of water for household use. There has been an improvement due to the Crisis Modifier activities where boreholes were drilled and rehabilitated.
- Nine districts were in the Alert category for Water for livestock trekking distance up from seven (7) last month. Nyanga however has livestock trekking an average of 7 km for water giving it an Alarm categorisation.
- Sixteen districts where households were eating an average of 2 meals a day up from 13 last month, were in the Alert category. Due to increase in prices of food commodities, households have reduced meals to two per day to cope. Bubi, remained in the Alarm category from last month as families have reduced meals to 1 per day.
- School attendance was in the Alert category in 10 districts up from 8 last month; with average attendance of 3 days.

Proposed Mitigatory Activities

Considering the threats posed by the COVID 19 pandemic on ZRBF operations, partners are encouraged to ensure that in the business continuity/contingency plans, priority be given to rehabilitation of water sources to ensure availability of potable water for both human and livestock consumption.

COVID 19 pandemic has created uncertainty in the market with some business hiking prices of commodities. This has exacerbated household food insecurity, leading to reduction in the number of meals. Districts such as Bubi which were in the alarm category should ensure that these 'new hazards' are integrated into their DRM plans and linked with national plans so that adequate advocacy can be made with government and other partners that can intervene to strengthen community safety nets.

4.4 Trade Trigger Indicators

Table 6: Trade trigger indicator summary for March 2020

| District | Cattle Price | Goat Price | Indigenous Chicken Price | Maize Price | Pearl Millet Price | Rapoko Price | Sheep Price | Sorghum Price |
|------------|--------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Beitbridge | 153.00 | 25.00 | 5.00 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 31.00 | 6.00 |
| Binga | 200.00 | 20.00 | 3.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | No Data | 20.00 | 8.00 |
| Bubi | 360.00 | 24.00 | 4.00 | 6.00 | 6.00 | No Data | 40.00 | 6.00 |
| Chiredzi | 276.00 | 22.00 | 5.00 | 7.00 | 6.00 | 8.00 | 34.00 | 6.00 |
| Insiza | 450.00 | 40.00 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 7.00 | No Data | 70.00 | 8.00 |
| Kariba | 300.00 | 18.00 | 4.00 | 6.00 | No Data | No Data | 28.00 | 5.00 |
| Lupane | 350.00 | 40.00 | 6.00 | 10.00 | 8.00 | 10.00 | 60.00 | 10.00 |
| Matobo | 400.00 | 40.00 | 6.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 60.00 | 10.00 |
| Mberengwa | 320.00 | 20.00 | 5.00 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 8.00 | 50.00 | 6.00 |
| Mbire | 251.67 | 16.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 3.00 | 24.00 | 3.00 |
| Mudzi | 363.00 | 23.00 | 6.00 | 10.00 | 11.00 | 11.00 | 38.00 | 9.00 |
| Mutoko | 405.00 | 48.00 | 8.00 | 11.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 54.00 | 10.00 |
| Mwenezi | 277.00 | 27.00 | 4.00 | 6.00 | 5.00 | 9.00 | 45.00 | 5.00 |
| Nkayi | 400.00 | 28.00 | 4.00 | 6.00 | No Data | No Data | 60.00 | No Data |
| Nyanga | 700.00 | 40.00 | 8.00 | 5.00 | No Data | No Data | 466.67 | No Data |
| Umguzu | 320.00 | 24.00 | 4.00 | 6.00 | No Data | No Data | 40.00 | No Data |
| Umzingwane | 280.00 | 40.00 | 6.00 | 6.00 | No Data | No Data | 52.00 | No Data |
| Zvishavane | 480.00 | 48.00 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 8.00 | 50.00 | 5.00 |

- Trade Indicators were converted to USD using the prevailing interbank rate of 25 as 31 March 2020.
- Cattle in Nyanga are selling for 700 USD; hence they are in the Emergency category. Five districts have fallen into the Alert category and Beitbridge is in the Alarm category as cattle prices fell to below the normal threshold of 300+ USD due to the weakening of the ZWL dollar to the USD.
- Kariba and Mbire were in the Alarm category for Goat Prices as prices fell below 20USD. Nine (9) districts were in the Alert category and Seven districts increase their prices in ZWL terms to match the weakening of the ZWL dollar.
- Sheep prices were in Emergency in Nyanga as cost of a sheep was 466 USD average. Higher than cattle prices in most districts.
- Most of the Alerts in commodity prices were caused by the changes in the exchange rate.

Proposed Mitigatory Activities

While livestock prices appear satisfactory to the seller, they are quite prohibitive to farmers who want to purchase both in ZWL and USD values due to the prevailing harsh economic conditions. This limits asset accumulation for many households.

Farmers are encouraged to seek better alternative markets and to avoid panic selling of their livestock by disposing their cattle when they are still in good condition and keeping only the number of cattle they can feed throughout the dry season.