



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>

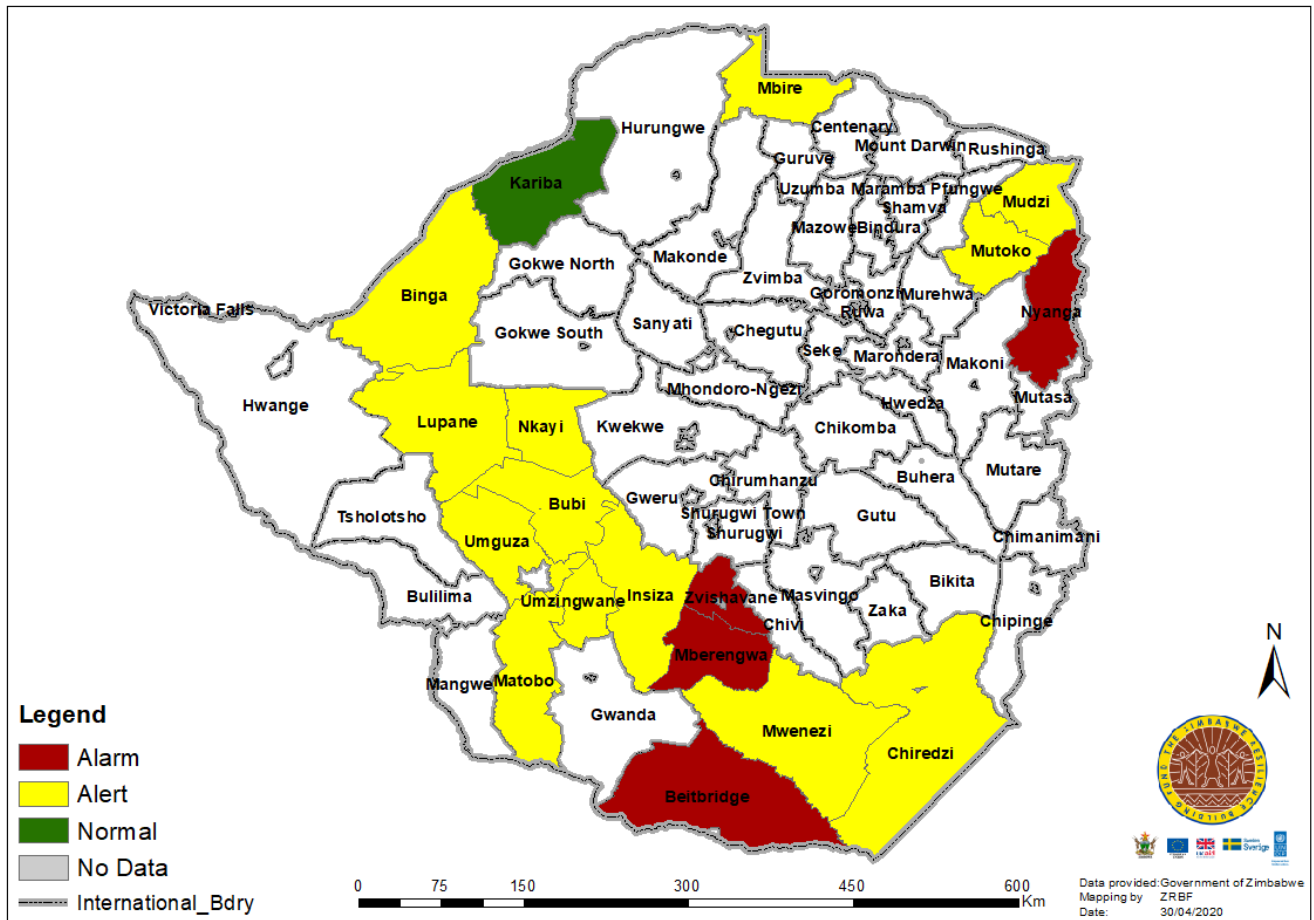
The bulletin contains official information for the month of April 2020 collected from various sources by ZRBF partners and analysed by ZRBF PMU. The High Frequency Monitoring Bulletin is a product of collaboration between the ZRBF Partners and other government agencies. For questions and comments regarding 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, 13 districts were in the Alert category except for Kariba (Normal), Beitbridge and Nyanga (Alarm). The following micro indicators, which in the Emergency Stage, drove this overall classification.

- Cattle prices in Nyanga
- Sheep prices in Nyanga
- Mid-season dry spells in Mberengwa, Mudzi, Matobo, Mbire and Chiredzi
- Crop pests and Disease Outbreaks in Binga
- Livestock Body condition in Matobo
- Reported cases of water borne diseases in Beitbridge, Chiredzi, Mbire, Mudzi and Zvishavane

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
Apr-20	Alarm	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alarm	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alarm	Alert	Alert	Alarm
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

2. Status Update Macro-Indicators

2.1 Vegetation Condition Index

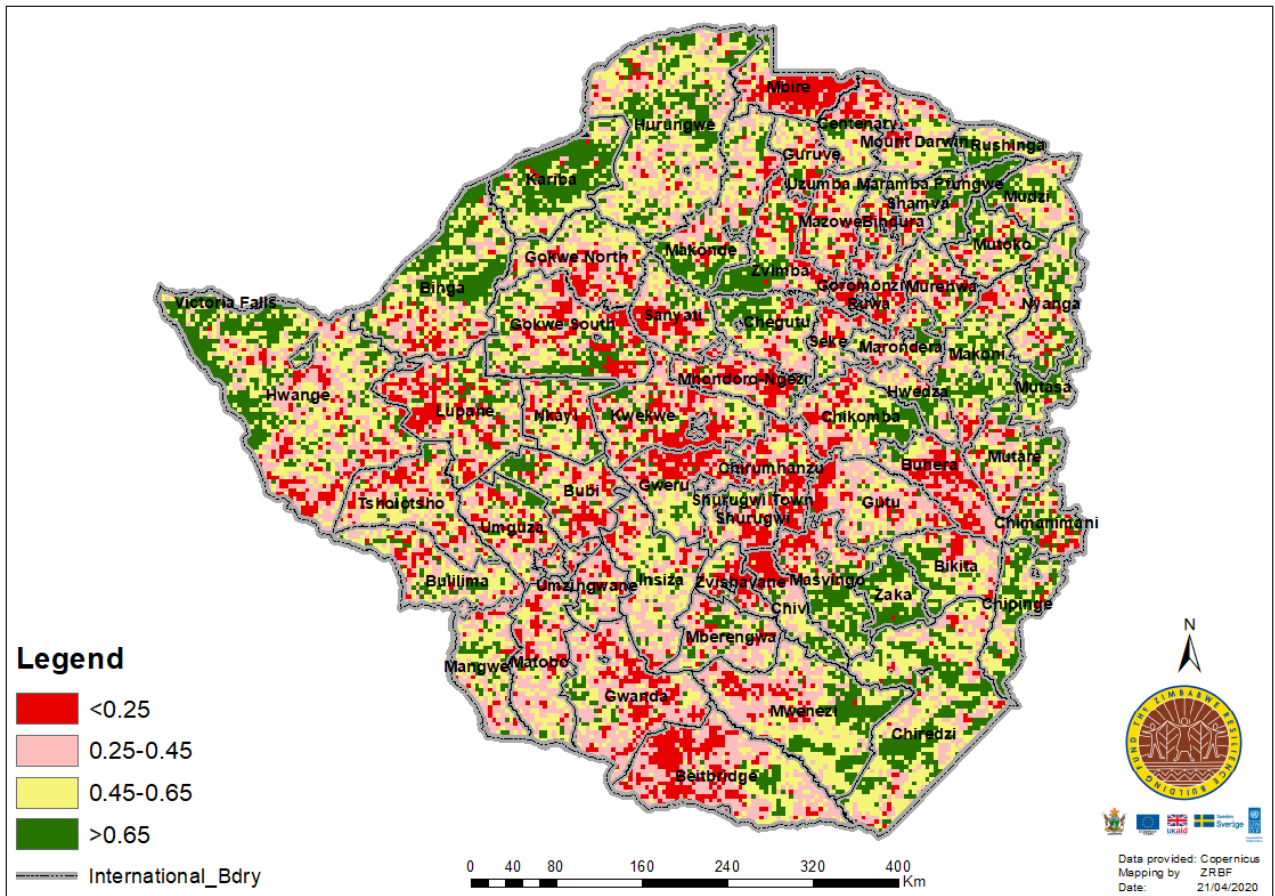


Figure 1: Vegetation Condition Index for April 2020

The Vegetation Condition Index shows a generally reduced vegetation condition across the country. In April 2020, 10 districts were in Alarm category, 7 in Alert and only 1 in the Normal category as shown below:

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

This shows reduced vegetation condition when compared to the March 2020 values where 14 districts were in the Normal category

District	VCI value	Crisis Modifier
Beitbridge	0.28	Alarm
Binga	0.6	Alert
Bubi	0.35	Alarm
Chiredzi	0.51	Alert
Insiza	0.37	Alarm
Kariba	0.80	Normal
Lupane	0.33	Alarm
Matobo	0.34	Alarm
Mberengwa	0.35	Alarm
Mbire	0.26	Alarm
Mudzi	0.51	Alert
Mutoko	0.49	Alert
Mwenezi	0.48	Alert
Nkayi	0.45	Alert
Nyanga	0.50	Alert
Umguza	0.36	Alarm
Umzingwane	0.3	Alarm
Zvishavane	0.28	Alarm

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 deteriorating from the categories for the past month.

- Biophysical indicators were in Alarm for four districts and Alert for 12 districts. Pasture availability which is critically inadequate in most districts, mid-season dry spells and poor rainfalls received in the month of April contributed to these classifications. Unlike in March, there was no district in the normal category.
- Production indicators were in the Alert category in seven (7) districts and Normal in 11. There has been a significant reduction in reported cases of Livestock diseases, and this can be attributed to the improved cattle dipping due to ZRBF acaricide support. Only Mwenezi district recorded livestock poverty deaths of 26. Livestock body condition is deteriorating in most districts due to inadequate pastures.
- Access indicators were in the Alert category in all 17 Districts and Alarm in Nyanga where households and livestock are trekking an average of 2.5km for water. Households in Bubi district are surviving on one (1) meal a day. Livestock trekking distance in Nkayi is 9km as water sources have dried up.
- Fifteen districts are in Alert category for Trade indicators. Due to the fall of the ZWL against the USD, most commodity prices fall either below or way above normal thresholds. Although farmers are trying to make adjustments, they do not always catch up with the market distortions. Nyanga is in the Emergency category, with most commodities falling way above the normal thresholds. This becomes a hindrance to those farmers who need to acquire productive assets such as livestock and households which need to purchase grain for consumption. On the side of farmers disposing however, this is a favourable condition.

Table 2: Trigger Indicator summary for April 2020

District	Biophysical Indicators	Production Indicators	Access Indicators	Trade Indicators
Beitbridge	Alarm	Alert	Alert	Alert
Binga	Alert	Normal	Alert	Alert
Bubi	Alert	Normal	Alert	Alert
Chiredzi	Alarm	Alert	Alert	Alert
Insiza	Alarm	Normal	Alert	Alert
Kariba	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Lupane	Alert	Normal	Alert	Normal
Matobo	Alarm	Normal	Alert	Alert
Mberengwa	Alert	Alarm	Alert	Alert
Mbire	Alert	Normal	Alert	Alert
Mudzi	Alert	Normal	Alert	Alert
Mutoko	Alert	Normal	Alert	Alert
Mwenezi	Alert	Normal	Alert	Alert
Nkayi	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert
Nyanga	No Data	Normal	Alarm	Emergency
Umguza	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert
Umzingwane	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert
Zvishavane	Alert	Alarm	Alert	Alert

4. Detailed Micro Trigger Indicators Update and Proposed Mitigatory Activities

4.1. Biophysical Trigger indicators

Table 3: Biophysical trigger indicator summary for April 2020

Biophysical Indicators				
District	Pastures Availability	Rainfall	State of Water Sources	Mid-season Dry Spells
Beitbridge	2	0	3	14.5
Binga	3	0	3	0
Bubi	3	10.8	3	2
Chiredzi	2	23.19	3	21
Insiza	2	No data	3	No Data
Kariba	No data	No data	No data	No data
Lupane	3	No data	3	No Data
Matobo	3	No data	2	22
Mberengwa	2	45.86	2	22
Mbire	4	0	2	25
Mudzi	3	10	3	21
Mutoko	3	7.5	3	6
Mwenezi	2	11.5	3	0
Nkayi	3	18.2	2	No Data
Nyanga	No data	No data	No data	8
Umguza	3	96.5	3	0
Umzingwane	3	22	3	17
Zvishavane	3	18.75	3	14.5

- Rainfall was recorded in 10 districts, Rainfall received was very little with Umguza district recording the highest of 96.5mm and this was spread across the month. Pasture availability was in Alarm in five (5) districts up from two (2) last month. These districts received little or no rainfall hence pastures are expected to last only a month. 11 districts are in the Alert category and only Mbire district has adequate pastures.
- Four (4) districts were in the Alarm category with 30-65% of the boreholes functioning, twelve districts were in Alert category.
- Five (5) 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 did not last.

Proposed Mitigation Activities

As pastures deplete in almost every district, farmers are advised to organise and implement grazing plans that takes into account the ecosystem and the available resources. Farmers are also encouraged to stock-pile forage and feed supplies for winter.

Work on the rehabilitation of boreholes should continue under the crisis modifier adaption plans with priority given to districts in the alarm and alert categories. This is also in line with the ZRBF COVID 19

contingency plan which aims at improving access to safe water that serves to prevent infections and the spread of disease in the communities.

Negative impacts due to increased length of dry spells could be mitigated through use of irrigation and growing of heat-/drought-tolerant crop varieties to match the changing weather and climate patterns.

4.2 Production Trigger indicators

Table 4: Production trigger indicator summary for April 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	3	2	0	68	539
Binga	0	3	2	0	0	104
Bubi	3	3	2	0	178	32
Chiredzi	1	1	2	26	1	754
Insiza	2	2	2	0	0	81
Kariba	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	166
Lupane	1	2	2	0	0	91
Matobo	2	2	0	0	0	302
Mberengwa	2	2	2	0	96	441
Mbire	2	3	2	0	22	518
Mudzi	No data	No data	2	0	19	502
Mutoko	No data	No data	3	0	3	229
Mwenezi	2	2	2	0	0	142
Nkayi	2	3	2	0	83	No Data
Nyanga	No data	No data	2	0	97	244
Umguza	3	2	2	0	0	64
Umzingwane	3	3	3	0	8	269
Zvishavane	2	3	2	0	18	539

- Binga is in emergency category for crop pests and diseases with Fall Army worm and armoured cricket affecting more than 60% of the crop. Lupane, Chiredzi and Beitbridge are in the Alarm category. More than 700 Ha in Chiredzi were affected by FAW.
- There has been a significant improvement in Livestock poverty deaths as only 26 recorded deaths in Chiredzi. Supplementary livestock feeding and drilling of boreholes with livestock troughs through the Crisis Modifier contributed to the reduction in numbers of poverty deaths. The rest of the districts recorded zero (0) deaths.
- Livestock diseases have reduced tangibly with no diseases of economic importance recorded. Bubi district is in Alarm stage with a significant number of fowl pox reported. 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.

- Five districts are in the Emergency category for water borne diseases down from 17 in the previous month. Dysentery cases were reported across all the districts
- Livestock Body condition is in Emergency category in Matobo from Alarm Stage in the previous month. 15 districts are in the Alert category. This is mainly caused by the inadequate pastures and the slight increase in livestock trekking distance for water.

Proposed Mitigatory Activities

The Fall armyworm is one of the transboundary pests which can cause huge economic losses if not managed. In areas such as Binga and Chiredzi which were heavily affected, farmers are encouraged to implement a holistic approach in managing fall armyworm in consultation with local extension workers. Cultural control measures such as avoiding late planting and intercropping with non-host crops may also be considered.

Local health workers should continue to be on high alert for water borne diseases. This also dovetails with the ZRBF COVID 19 contingency plan which aims to ensure that good water management and hygiene practices are consistently applied to help prevent human-to-human transmission of diseases.

In areas where livestock body conditions have seriously deteriorated like Matobo, for the long-term profitability of their operations, farmers may consider selling animals that will give the least return after the drought. Delaying the sale of low producing animals will only limit future forage and feed supplies for higher producing animals.

4.3 Access Trigger Indicators

Table 5: Access trigger indicator summary for April 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	1.5	2	No data	2
Bubi	2	1	No data	2
Chiredzi	1.09	2	No data	1.75
Insiza	3	2	No data	3
Kariba	No data	No data	No data	No data
Lupane	3	2	No data	4
Matobo	2	2	No data	2
Mberengwa	1.75	2	No Data	2.39
Mbire	1.31	2	4	2.4
Mudzi	2	2	4	2.3
Mutoko	2.64	2	No data	3.36
Mwenezi	3	2	No data	3.5
Nkayi	No data	No data	No data	9
Nyanga	2.5	2	No data	2.5
Umguzua	2	2	No data	1
Umzingwane	2	3	3	2
Zvishavane	1.24	2	No Data	2.08

- Distance to water sources is in Alert category in 14 out of 18 districts. The average distance to water sources has gone up slightly, with four districts recording an average of 3km up from between 1 and 2km.
- 14 districts are in the Alert category for Water for livestock trekking distance up from nine (9) last month. Nkayi has a livestock trekking an average of 9 km for water giving it an Alarm categorisation.
- 13 districts where households were eating an average of 2 meals and are 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 data was unavailable in most of the districts due to the COVID 19 pandemic which saw schools close earlier than usual.

Proposed Mitigatory Activities

The current travel restrictions introduced to stop the spread of COVID 19 may have contributed to reduced access to adequate food for some households whose livelihood activities in the informal sector was interrupted. Through various local coordination platforms such Civil protection meetings, efforts should be made to identify households who require food assistance and link them with organisations and institutions providing such assistance.

Consortia partners should accelerate the rehabilitation of boreholes as part of the implementation of crisis modifier adaptations activities.

4.4 Trade Trigger Indicators

Table 6: Trade trigger indicator summary for April 2020

District	Cattle Price	Goat Price	Indigenous Chicken Price	Maize Price	Pearl Millet Price	Rapoko Price	Sheep Price	Sorghum Price
Beitbridge	232.00	33.50	6.50	7.25	7.25	9.66	53.34	6.00
Binga	240.00	20.00	4.00	6.00	6.00	No Data	36.67	6.00
Bubi	360.00	24.00	4.00	8.00	8.00	No Data	65.00	6.00
Chiredzi	323.28	28.00	4.00	9.36	8.00	15.23	55.58	8.00
Insiza	350.00	40.00	6.00	6.00	7.00	No Data	70.00	8.00
Kariba	No Data	No	No Data	No	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
Lupane	350.00	40.00	6.00	8.00	8.00	10.00	60.00	8.00
Matobo	400.00	40.00	6.00	8.00	8.00	No Data	70.00	8.00
Mberengwa	400.00	40.00	4.00	7.00	5.60	No Data	40.00	6.00
Mbire	206.68	22.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	48.87	5.00
Mudzi	262.50	28.75	5.00	6.80	6.70	12.67	50.00	10.00
Mutoko	370.00	30.00	5.00	6.00	10.00	10.00	50.00	10.00
Mwenezi	324.60	33.00	4.60	7.00	6.00	9.92	57.00	8.00
Nkayi	420.00	60.00	4.80	7.00	4.00	7.00	65.00	6.00
Nyanga	700.00	25.00	7.00	No	No Data	No Data	250.00	No Data
Umguza	250.00	30.00	4.00	6.00	4.00	7.00	64.00	No Data
Umzingwane	500.00	20.00	4.00	8.00	4.00	6.00	64.00	6.00
Zvishavane	400.00	40.00	6.00	7.00	6.00	7.50	40.00	7.00

- Trade Indicators were converted to USD using the prevailing interbank rate of 25 as 30 April 2020. Mudzi, Mutoko, Insiza, Lupane and Matobo have pegged their prices in USD, whilst Beitbridge has rand prices for most commodities
- Cattle in Nyanga are selling for 700 USD; hence they are in the Emergency category. Five districts have fallen into the Alert category as cattle prices fell to below the normal threshold of 300+ USD due to the weakening of the ZWL dollar to the USD.
- Mbire and Umzingwane are in the Alarm category for Rapoko prices as prices fell below 10 USD. Five (5) districts are in the Alert category.
- Sheep prices were in Emergency in Nyanga as cost of a sheep was 250USD average. Higher than cattle prices in Mbire, Mudzi and Beitbridge districts. They have however reduced from 466 USD in the previous month.
- Most of the Alerts in commodity prices were caused by the changes in the exchange rate as the ZW dollar weakened against the USD

Proposed Mitigatory Activities

Livestock accumulation is becoming more difficult with high market prices of cattle and sheep recorded especially in Nyanga. Many farmers now opt to retain cattle as a hedge in the current economy and this has drove the prices up. Farmers should avoid panic selling of their livestock and consider selling non-productive stock.