



THE ZIMBABWE RESILIENCE BUILDING FUND

High Frequency Monitoring Report

Bulletin #37 • June 2020 • www.zrbf.co.zw



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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>

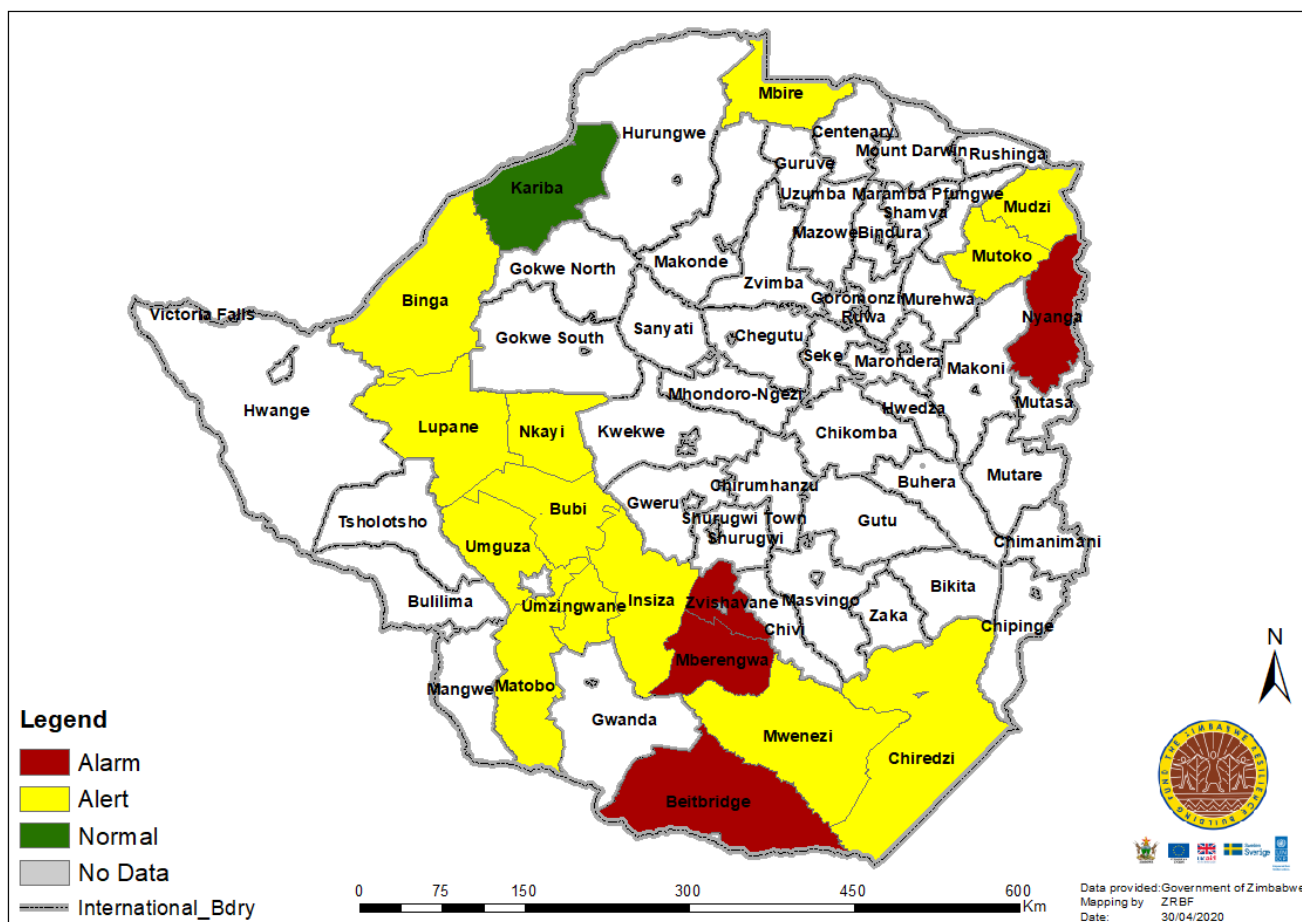
The bulletin contains official information for the month of May 2020 collected from various sources by ZRBF partners and analysed by ZRBF PMU. The High Frequency Monitoring Bulletin is a product of collaboration between the ZRBF Partners and other government agencies. For questions and comments regarding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

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1. Overall Results and Implications

Summary Classification



Key Highlights

According to the High Frequency Monitoring (HFM) classification, all the 18 districts were in the Alert category. The following micro indicators, which in the Emergency Stage, drove this overall classification.

- Cattle price in Matobo
- Common diarrhoea reported cases in Beitbridge, Chiredzi, Kariba, Lupane, Mberengwa, Mbire, Mudzi, Mutoko, Mwenezi, Nkayi, Nyanga, Umguza and Zvishavane
- Fmd reported cases in Umguza
- Indigenous chicken price in Zvishavane
- Maize price in Bubi
- Maize price in Chiredzi
- Pearl millet price in Chiredzi, Mberengwa and Zvishavane
- Rapoko price in Chiredzi
- Sorghum price in Chiredzi
- Vegetation Cover Index (VCI) in Insiza, Matobo, Umguza, Umzingwane and Zvishavane
- Water for livestock trekking distance in Nyanga

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
May 2020	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert
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

2. Status Update Macro-Indicators

2.1 Vegetation Condition Index

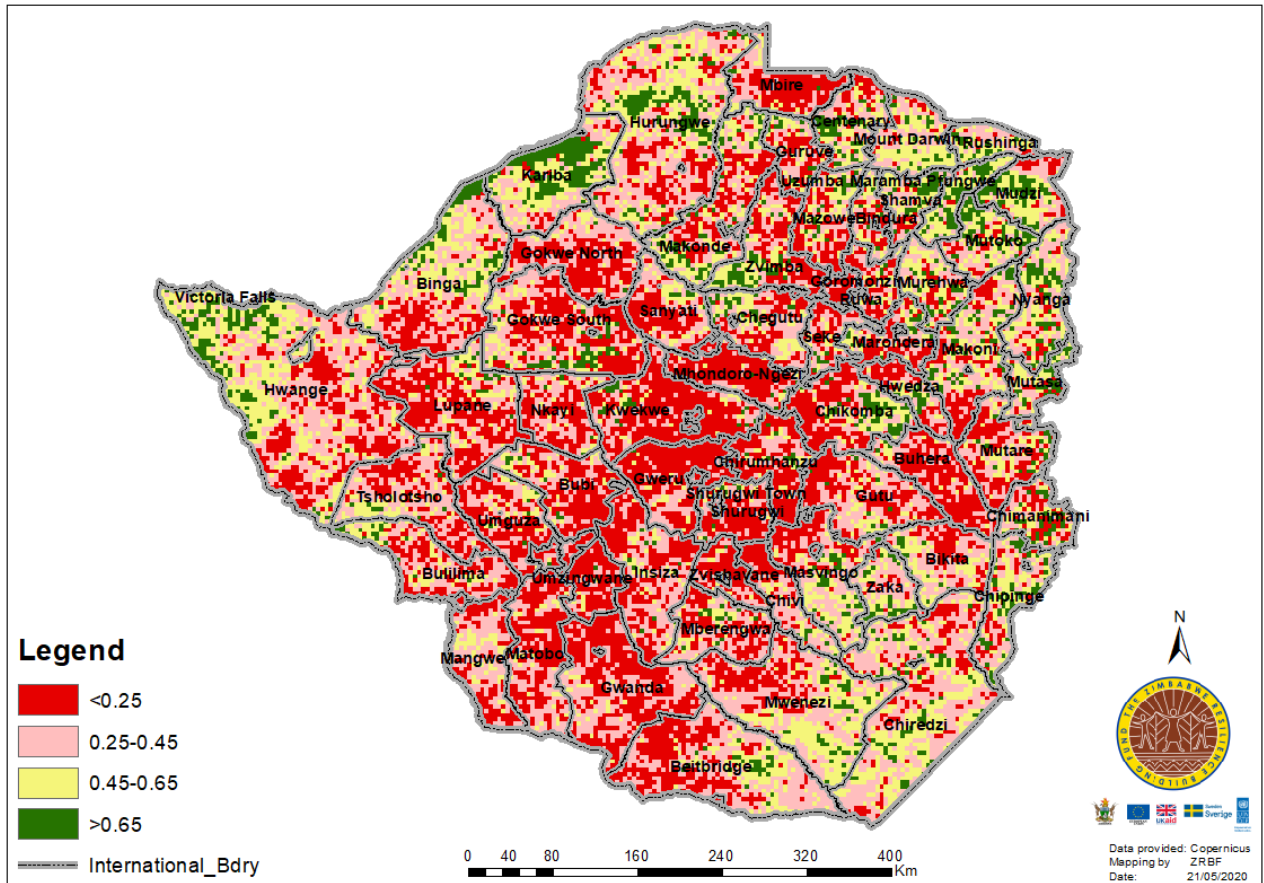


Figure 1: Vegetation Condition Index for May 2020

The Vegetation Condition Index shows a generally reduced vegetation condition across the country. In May 2020, 5 districts were in Emergency, 9 in Alarm and 4 in Alert categories as shown below:

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

This shows reduced vegetation condition when compared to the April 2020 values.

District	VCI value	Crisis Modifier
Beitbridge	0.3	Alarm
Binga	0.42	Alarm
Bubi	0.28	Alarm
Chiredzi	0.41	Alarm
Insiza	0.24	Emergency
Kariba	0.60	Alert
Lupane	0.28	Alarm
Matobo	0.23	Emergency
Mberengwa	0.29	Alarm
Mbire	0.28	Alarm
Mudzi	0.50	Alert
Mutoko	0.51	Alert
Mwenezi	0.40	Alarm
Nkayi	0.28	Alarm
Nyanga	0.47	Alert
Umguza	0.24	Emergency
Umzingwane	0.15	Emergency
Zvishavane	0.18	Emergency

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 Alert in all districts except Nyanga which had no data. Pasture availability which is inadequate in all districts and state of water sources in Alert and Alarm.
- Production indicators were in the Alert category in eleven districts up from seven in the previous month and Normal in seven, down from 11 in April. Due to the pastures which are inadequate livestock body condition is deteriorating in most districts.
- Access indicators were in the Alert category in 16 districts and in Emergency in Nyanga where livestock trekking distance for water is 12km. Distance to water sources for households in in Alert in almost all districts.
- Five (5) districts are in Alert category for Trade indicators. Chiredzi District is in the Alarm category. There has been an increase in livestock and grain prices in USD terms despite the fall of the ZWD against the USD. Farmers are opting to sell their commodities in foreign currency and ZWD cash, rejecting electronic money. Small grains like pearl millet doubled in price in most districts.

Table 2: Trigger Indicator summary for May 2020

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

4. Detailed Micro Trigger Indicators Update and Proposed Mitigatory Activities

4.1. Biophysical Trigger indicators

Table 3: Biophysical trigger indicator summary for May 2020

Biophysical Indicators				
District	Pastures Availability	Rainfall	State of Water Sources	Mid-season Dry Spells
Beitbridge	2	0	4	0
Binga	3	No data	3	0
Bubi	2	0	3	0
Chiredzi	2	0	3	0
Insiza	2	0	3	0
Kariba	3	No data	3	0
Lupane	3	0	3	0
Matobo	3	0	2	0
Mberengwa	2	0	2	0
Mbire	3	0	3	0
Mudzi	3	0	3	0
Mutoko	3	0	3	0
Mwenezi	2	0	3	0
Nkayi	2	0	2	0
Nyanga	No data	No data	No data	0
Umguza	3	0	3	0
Umzingwane	3	0	3	0
Zvishavane	3	0	3	0

- There was no rainfall recorded across the 18 districts. The rainy season has ended.
- Pasture availability was in Alarm in in seven (7) districts up from five (5) last month, Available Pasture will last 1-3 months. Inadequate rainfall was received in the previous months hence pastures quickly dried up. 10 districts are in the Alarm category with pastures expected to last 3-6 months.
- Three (3) districts are in the Alarm category with 30-65% of the boreholes functioning for State of water sources, thirteen districts are in Alert category and only Beitbridge has more than 85% of the boreholes functioning and is in the Normal category

Proposed Mitigation Activities

A poor rainfall season has resulted in pastures not achieving their full potential, with early depletion of grazing pastures recorded in 10 districts which were in the alarm category. Farmers are encouraged to find alternative food sources to feed their cattle. Those with crop residues should preserve it for fodder and do urea treatment to add some nutrition value to the dry stove. The consortia should take advantage of the ZRBF efforts to scale-up fodder production through bush meal production across the 18 districts. Farmers should always be reminded on the need to destock and remain with cattle they can feed between now and the rainy season and prevent all-right losses from the imminent cattle poverty death. Those that

have money to buy supplementary feed should do so now as the feeds will be more expensive at the zenith of the pasture shortage between September and December

With water sources already affected by unpredictable rainfall, the availability of water is key to prevent and protect farmers from losing the progress made over the past years and mitigate their exposure to COVID-19. ZRBF consortia working together with water and sanitation committees should continuously do field assessments with the view to support the rehabilitation of non-functional water points.

4.2 Production Trigger indicators

Table 4: Production trigger indicator summary for May 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	No data	3	2	0	108	214
Binga	No data	No data	2	0	2	66
Bubi	No data	No data	2	0	70	26
Chiredzi	2	2	2	55	1	577
Insiza	No data	No data	2	0	0	56
Kariba	No data	No data	2	0	0	181
Lupane	No data	No data	2	0	2	153
Matobo	No data	No data	1	0	0	67
Mberengwa	No data	No data	2	5	474	202
Mbire	No data	No data	2	0	48	298
Mudzi	No data	No data	2	0	9	256
Mutoko	No data	No data	2	0	0	355
Mwenezi	2	2	2	0	230	218
Nkayi	No data	No data	2	0	76	127
Nyanga	3	3	2	0	18	173
Umguza	No data	No data	2	0	72	180
Umzingwane	No data	No data	2	0	19	43
Zvishavane	No data	No data	2	0	29	182

- Crops have been harvested in the fields, hence no data for crop pests and diseases and crop condition. Irrigation and garden crops are being affected by FAW.
- Chiredzi and Mberengwa recorded livestock poverty deaths. Chiredzi 55 an increase from 26 in April
- Umguza recorded 41 FMD cases, putting it in Emergency category. Livestock diseases cases have increased significantly in the month of May, as compared to April. Four (4) districts are in Alarm and nine (9) in Alert. 448 cases of fowl pox were recorded in Mberengwa and 174 cases of lumpy skin were recorded in Mwenezi.
- Thirteen districts are in the Emergency category for water borne diseases up from five (5) in the previous month. Dysentery cases were reported across all the districts.
- Livestock Body condition has deteriorated in all districts and is in Alert in 17 districts and Alarm in Matobo, this has been caused by the inadequate pastures and the increase livestock trekking distance for water.

Proposed Mitigatory Activities

To reduce livestock starvation and drought related deaths, there is need to scale up the bush meal business model throughout the eighteen ZRBF targeted districts. Assessments should be carried out

in areas with an abundance of indigenous trees which can be used with fodder and crop residues to supplement survival of the livestock

There is need to strengthen the ‘sustainable supply of acaricides to communal dip tanks model’ by ensuring that cattle owners are sensitized and adequately educated on the benefits of investing in the procurement and use acaricides.

ZRBF consortia should support district civil protection committee’s capacity to manage local seasonal epidemics by ensuring that the rehabilitation of water sources is complemented by health and hygiene awareness campaigns. This will help prevent an outbreak of waterborne diseases and exposure to COVID 19.

4.3 Access Trigger Indicators

Table 5: Access trigger indicator summary for May 2020

Access Indicators				
District	Distances to Water Sources for Households	Number of Meals	School Attendance	Water for Livestock Trekking Distance
Beitbridge	1	2	No data	1
Binga	1.5	2	No data	2
Bubi	3	2	No data	3.5
Chiredzi	1.4	2	No data	2.34
Insiza	3	2	No data	0
Kariba	1.5	2	No data	2
Lupane	3	2	No data	3
Matobo	3	2	No data	4
Mberengwa	2.14	2	No data	2.42
Mbire	2	2	No data	2
Mudzi	2	2	No data	2.75
Mutoko	2.5	2	No data	3.8
Mwenezi	2.61	2	No data	3.3
Nkayi	3	2	No data	3.5
Nyanga	No data	No data	No data	12
Umguza	2.5	2	No data	2.5
Umzingwane	2	2	No data	6
Zvishavane	2.32	2	No data	2.42

- Distance to water sources is in Alert category in 16 districts up from 14 in the previous month., the distance to water sources has gone up slightly, with five districts recording an average of 3km
- 14 districts are in the Alert category for Water for livestock trekking distance. Nyanga is in Emergency category, with livestock trekking a average of 12km to water. Umzingwane is n Alarm with an average of 6km.
- 17 districts where households were eating an average of 2 meals and are in the Alert category up from 13 in April. Due to increase in prices of food commodities, households have reduced meals to two per day to cope.
- School attendance data was unavailable as all schools are closed due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Proposed Mitigatory Activities

Consortia working in communities which endure long distances to access water for domestic and livestock consumption, may leverage on additional funding from the Embassy of Sweden which UNDP have received for resilience building. This additional support allows ZRBF to invest in water for agriculture and livestock as well as in response to increased hygiene requirements due to COVID-19.

Arbitrary increases of prices of basic commodities, reduced flow of remittances and fiscal space for social protection programmes and a frozen labour market have been identified as some of the drivers of the recent surge in the number of households eating an average of 2 meals. ZRBF consortia should continuously engage all the relevant stakeholders to ensure that food insecure households are included in the various cash interventions being implemented throughout the districts.

4.4 Trade Trigger Indicators

Table 6: Trade trigger indicator summary for May 2020

District	Cattle Price	Goat Price	Indigenous Chicken Price	Maize Price	Pearl Millet Price	Rapoko Price	Sheep Price	Sorghum Price
Beitbridge	150	50	8	10	10	10	70	10
Binga	320	12	6	9	9	No data	28	9
Bubi	400	33	8.3	12	8	8	39	8
Chiredzi	334	41	5.6	11	13	24	48	11
Insiza	450	40	6	6	7	No data	70	7
Kariba	336	32	6.4	5	No data	5	64	5
Lupane	350	40	6	8	8	10	60	8
Matobo	650	28	5.5	8	8	No data	33	8
Mberengwa	600	60	8	10	12	11	80	10
Mbire	229	28	4	10	8	8	45	8
Mudzi	225	27.5	4.5	5.18	5.81	6.31	38.75	4.5
Mutoko	325	28	5	6	7	7	42	6
Mwenezi	432.24	37	6.5	8	7.5	11	69	8
Nkayi	480	28	8	8	8	8	31	8
Nyanga	440	30	5.5	No	No data	No data	134	No data
Umguza	250	30	5.55	8	5.55	8	60	8
Umzingwane	500	28	5.55	8	5.55	8	44	5.55
Zvishavane	480	48	12	8	11	14	66	8

- Trade Indicators were converted to USD using the prevailing interbank rate of 25 as 31 May 2020. Mudzi, Mutoko, Insiza, Lupane and Matobo have pegged their prices in USD, whilst Beitbridge, Umguza, Umzingwane and Nkayi had rand prices for most commodities
- Cattle in Matobo are selling for 650 USD; hence they are in the Emergency category. Three 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. Cattle prices have however improved significantly as farmers began to trade in USD.
- Pearl Millet prices doubled in three districts, giving an Emergency category. Prices of small grains are stable in most districts

- Most of the Alerts in commodity prices were caused by the changes in the exchange rate as the ZW dollar weakened against the USD. Farmers have however increased their prices in ZWD to match the distortions.

Proposed Mitigatory Activities

Cattle farming has the potential to increase the overall income of the farmers and raise their standard of living. Farmers are encouraged to have a sense of business, be able to sell their products where and when it is most profitable and plan production to take advantage of the most favourable markets. With USD valuations for livestock, farmers may position themselves well to take advantage of niche markets that may add value to their cattle.