



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>

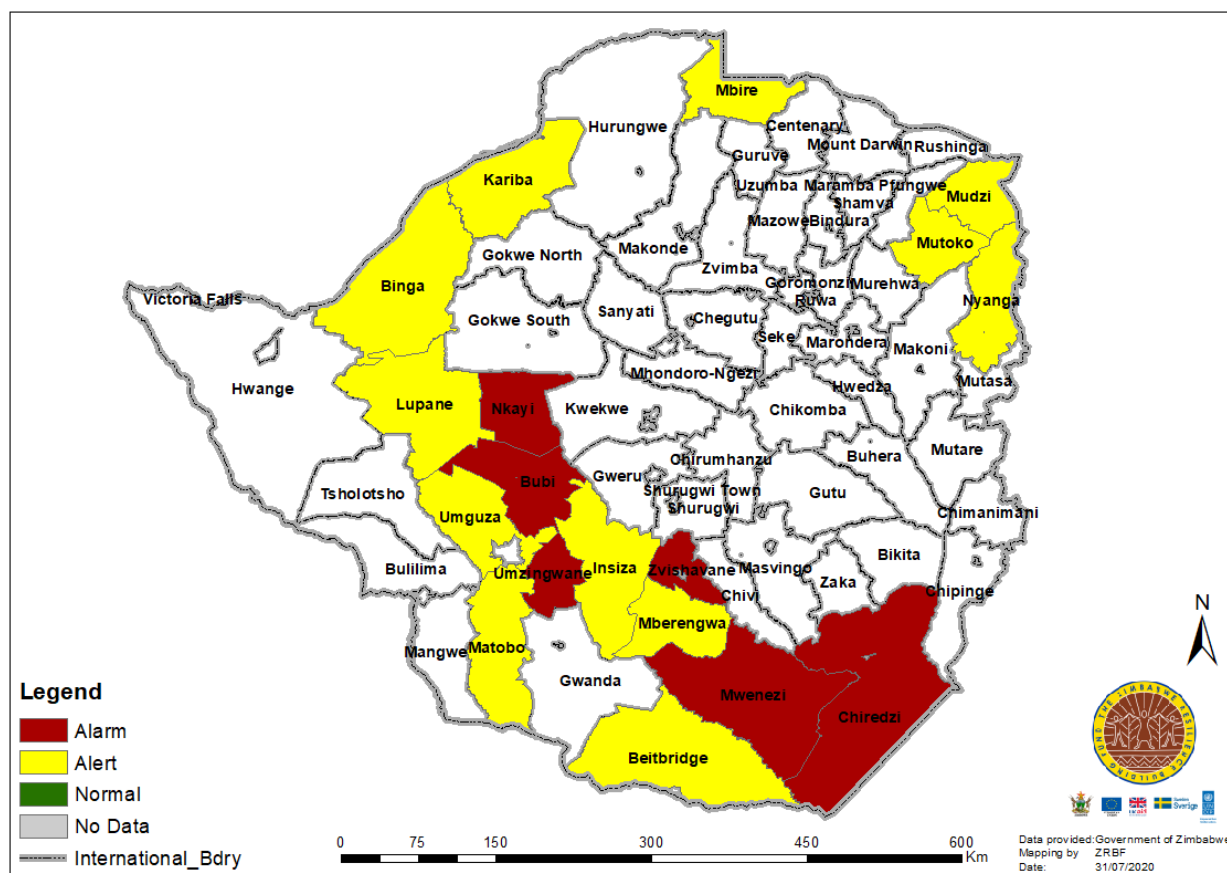
The bulletin contains official information for the month of July 2020 collected from various sources by ZRBF partners and analysed by ZRBF PMU. The High Frequency Monitoring Bulletin is a product of collaboration between the ZRBF Partners and other government agencies. For questions and comments regarding 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, 6 districts were in the Alarm while rest were in the Alert category. The following micro indicators, which in the Emergency Stage, drove this overall classification.

- Common Diarrhoea Reported Cases in Beitbridge, Binga, Chiredzi, Kariba, Lupane, Mberengwa, Mbire, Mudzi, Mutoko, Mwenezi, Nkayi, Nyanga, Umguza and Zvishavane
- Other Diseases in Mudzi. There were 612 cases of yolk sac infection cases in the district
- Pastures availability in Umzingwane
- State of water sources in Mberengwa and Zvishavane
- Pearl Millet price in Zvishavane and Insiza
- Cattle price in Beitbridge

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 |
|-----------|------------|-------|-------|----------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|-------|-------|--------|---------|-------|--------|--------|------------|------------|
| July-19 | Alert | Alarm | Alert | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alarm | Alarm | Alert | Alert | Alarm | Alarm |
| June 2020 | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert | Alert |
| 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 |

2. Status Update Macro-Indicators

2.1 Vegetation Condition Index

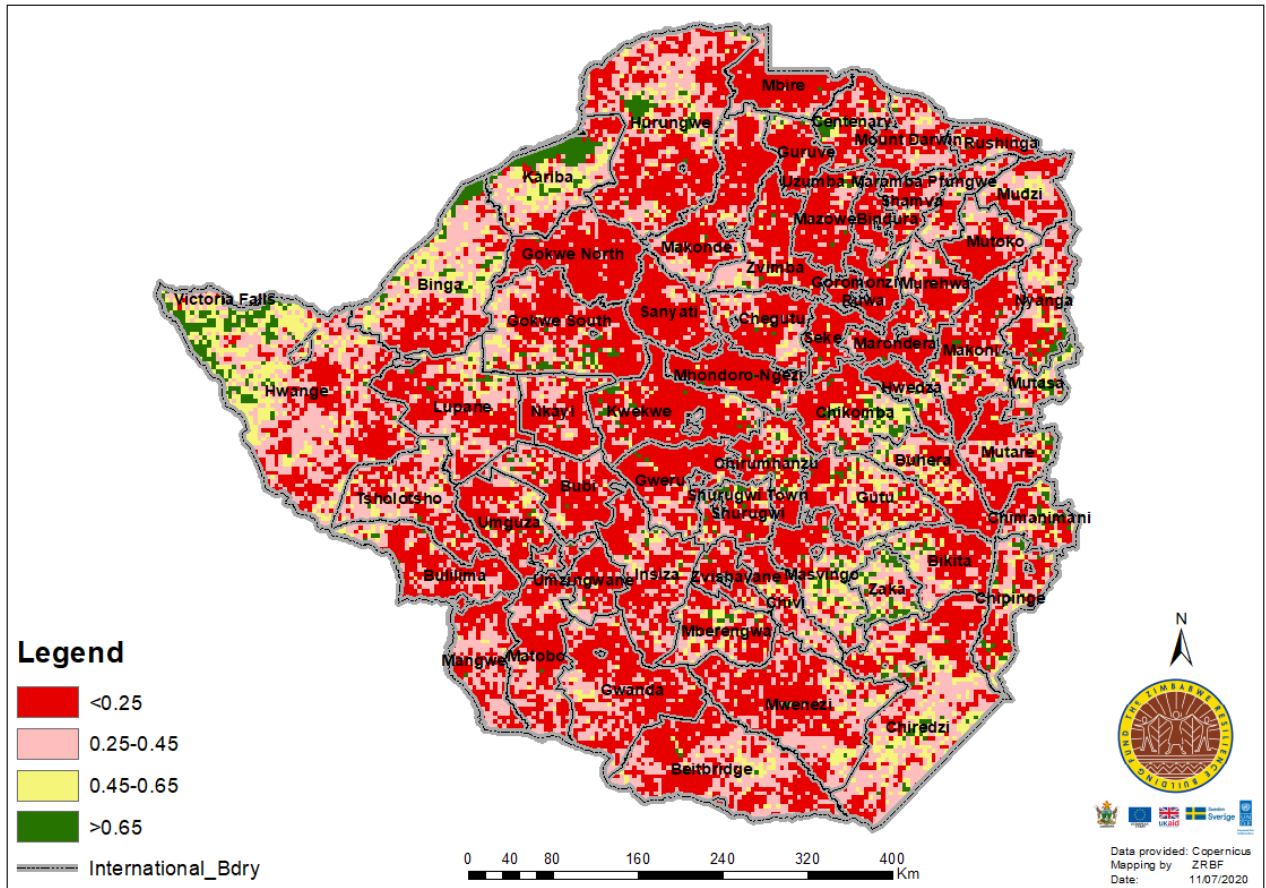


Figure 1: Vegetation Condition Index for July 2020

The Vegetation Condition Index shows a generally reduced vegetation condition across the country. In July 2020, 9 districts were in Emergency, 8 in Alarm and 1 in Alert categories as shown below:

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

| District | VCI value | Crisis Modifier |
|------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Beitbridge | 0.28 | Alarm |
| Binga | 0.35 | Alarm |
| Bubi | 0.22 | Emergency |
| Chiredzi | 0.3 | Alarm |
| Insiza | 0.24 | Emergency |
| Kariba | 0.48 | Alert |
| Lupane | 0.28 | Alarm |
| Matobo | 0.22 | Emergency |
| Mberengwa | 0.29 | Alarm |
| Mbire | 0.15 | Emergency |
| Mudzi | 0.28 | Alarm |
| Mutoko | 0.22 | Emergency |
| Mwenezi | 0.28 | Alarm |
| Nkayi | 0.22 | Emergency |
| Nyanga | 0.29 | Alarm |
| Umguza | 0.22 | Emergency |
| Umzingwane | 0.21 | Emergency |
| Zvishavane | 0.2 | 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, are mostly in the Alert category.

- Biophysical indicators are in Alarm in six (6) districts, deteriorating from June where five were in the Alert category. Pasture availability which is inadequate in all districts and state of water sources which have depleted as well as the vegetation cover index which is in emergency in nine (9) districts are the main cause of this categorisation. The rest of the 12 districts are in the Alert category.
- Production indicators in 15 districts are in the Alert category up from eight (8) in the previous month. There has been an increase in reported cases of livestock diseases where 612 cases of York sac infection were reported in Mudzi district. Common diarrhoea reported cases are in Emergency in 13 districts; giving production indicators an Alert categorisation.
- Access indicators are in the Emergency category in two (2) districts; Nyanga and Bubi where distance to water sources for households is 5km for Bubi, and water for livestock trekking distance is 5km is Nyanga. Bubi households in Bubi have been eating one (1) meal a day for the past three months. The rest of the 16 districts are in the Alert category.
- Six (6) districts are in Alert category for Trade indicators and the rest are in the Normal category. The trade indicators were converted to the USD using the official exchange rate as at 31 July of 76.75 ZWD to 1 USD. However majority of the districts reported prices in USD and ZAR Rand this month as markets are favouring trade in foreign currency over the local currency. The rest of the 12 districts are in the normal category showing a bit of stability in the market prices as those selling in local currency increased their prices to match the foreign currency prices. However, Beitbridge cattle prices are in the emergency category with cattle prices averaging 115 USD or 8750 ZWD which is below the normal threshold of 250-300 USD.

Table 2: Trigger Indicator summary for July 2020

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

Detailed Micro Trigger Indicators Update and Proposed Mitigatory Activities

4.1. Biophysical Trigger indicators

Table 3: Biophysical trigger indicator summary for July 2020

| Biophysical Indicators | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| District | Pastures Availability | Rainfall | State of Water Sources | Mid-season Dry Spells |
| Beitbridge | 2 | No data | 3 | 0 |
| Binga | 3 | No data | 3 | 0 |
| Bubi | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Chiredzi | 2 | No data | 3 | 0 |
| Insiza | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Kariba | 3 | No data | 3 | 0 |
| Lupane | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Matobo | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Mberengwa | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Mbire | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Mudzi | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Mutoko | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Mwenezi | 2 | No data | 2 | 0 |
| Nkayi | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Nyanga | No data | 0 | No data | 0 |
| Umguza | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Umzingwane | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Zvishavane | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

- Pasture availability is in Alarm category in 13 districts where the remaining pastures will last 1-3 months. Three (3) districts are in the Alert category with pastures expected to last 3-6 months. Umzingwane is in the Emergency category; remaining pastures are expected to last only a month. Nyanga district had no data for pasture availability.
- Zvishavane and Mberengwa are in the Emergency category for State of water sources. This means that less than 30% of the boreholes are functional. Six (6) districts are in the Alarm category with 30-65% of the boreholes functioning, Nine (9) districts are in Alert category.

▪ Proposed Mitigation Activities

Farmers are encouraged to offer supplementation to cows on pasture, at least until the grass has a chance to grow well. Efforts should be invested in promoting optimal utilisation of crop residues including correct treatment of crop stovers to improve their palatability, nutritive value and digestibility. The consortia should take advantage of the ZRBF efforts to scale-up fodder production through bush meal production across the 18 districts, to produce livestock feeds.

The national water and sanitation cluster should ensure that there are enough water points across the country to prevent overcrowding and enable social distancing. Measures put in place to mitigate COVID 19 will be more effective by ensuring improved access to clean water for drinking, handwashing, and hygiene. ZRBF consortia working together with water and sanitation committees should take advantage of the extra resources by ZRBF donors to rehabilitate all the non-functional water points with priority given to Mberengwa and Zvishavane. This has the potential to increase health indicators and contribute towards resilience.

4.2 Production Trigger indicators

Table 4: Production trigger indicator summary for July 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 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 22 | 236 |
| Binga | No data | No data | 2 | 0 | 10 | 156 |
| Bubi | No data | No data | 2 | 0 | 12 | 30 |
| Chiredzi | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 658 |
| Insiza | No data | No data | 1 | 0 | 0 | 47 |
| Kariba | 3 | No data | 2 | 0 | 43 | 263 |
| Lupane | No data | No data | 2 | 0 | 0 | 213 |
| Matobo | No data | No data | 1 | 0 | 6 | 53 |
| Mberengwa | 3 | No data | 2 | 0 | 0 | 242 |
| Mbire | No data | No data | 2 | 0 | 29 | 275 |
| Mudzi | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 369 |
| Mutoko | 2 | No data | 2 | 0 | 54 | 280 |
| Mwenezi | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 451 |
| Nkayi | No data | No data | 2 | 0 | 76 | 204 |
| Nyanga | No data | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 339 |
| Umguzu | No data | No data | 2 | 0 | 5 | 248 |
| Umzingwane | No data | No data | 2 | 0 | 59 | 62 |
| Zvishavane | 3 | No data | 2 | 0 | 21 | 206 |

- Crops have been harvested in the fields, hence no data for crop pests and diseases and crop condition in most districts. Mudzi and Mutoko districts are in the Alert category for Crop Pests and Diseases; 24% Presence of Tuta absoluta in tomatoes, fall armyworm in winter maize and common red beetle moth on beans in Mudzi. Chiredzi and Mwenezi are in the Alert category for crop condition where the horticultural crops in Nutrition gardens are not showing their full potential.
- There have been no livestock poverty deaths recorded in all the districts, this is despite pastures and water sources depleted. This can be attributed to the fodder production and supplementary stock feed interventions of the Crisis Modifier in these districts
- Livestock body condition is in Alert in 15 Districts and Alarm in Two (2) districts. Livestock body condition is deteriorating due to the inadequate pastures.
- Reported cases of Livestock diseases is in Alert in 13 districts and Alarm in Kariba and Matobo where Theileriosis was reported in Kariba and Mastitis in Matobo.
- Water borne diseases are in Emergency in 14 districts, Alarm in three (3) and Alert in the remaining one. Dysentery cases have increased across the districts (255 cases reported) and two (2) typhoid cases recorded in Mberengwa

Proposed Mitigation Activities

Cultural control methods are recommended for managing crop pests and diseases while pesticides may be considered as a last resort as part of integrated pest management. To improve production and productivity in nutrition gardens, farmers should introduce improved cultivation practices in cooperation with local extension workers and strengthen crop-specific clusters of production for their potential of disseminating good practices.

To reduce livestock starvation and drought related deaths, farmers are encouraged to supplement feed for their cattle and to adopt the different options of fodder production being promoted by the ZRBF consortia in their respective districts. Farmers are also encouraged to adopt strategic destocking programmes by disposing their animals while they are in good enough body condition to fetch high prices and remain with those they can feed. The sustainable communal dipping programme should be strengthened especially in areas such as Kariba and Matobo to ensure strict adherence to dipping practices.

All water point rehabilitations should be complemented by health and hygiene education about simple low-cost safe water storage and delivery methods. Frequent and careful hand washing for all age groups should be promoted all the time. The provision of safe water, sanitation and hygienic conditions is essential to protecting human health during water borne disease outbreaks, including the COVID-19 outbreak.

4.3 Access Trigger Indicators

Table 5: Access trigger indicator summary for July 2020

| Access Indicators | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| District | Distances to Water Sources for Households | Number of Meals | School Attendance | Water for Livestock Trekking Distance |
| Beitbridge | 2 | 3 | No data | 2 |
| Binga | 2 | 2 | No data | 3 |
| Bubi | 5 | 1 | No data | 3 |
| Chiredzi | 1.45 | 2 | No data | 2.21 |
| Insiza | 3 | 2 | No data | 4 |
| Kariba | 1 | 2 | No data | 2 |
| Lupane | 3.5 | 2 | No data | 3 |
| Matobo | 3 | 2 | No data | 4 |
| Mberengwa | 2.32 | 2 | No data | 3.14 |
| Mbire | 2 | 2 | No data | 4 |
| Mudzi | 2.29 | 2 | No data | 3.92 |
| Mutoko | 2 | 2 | No data | 2.8 |
| Mwenezi | 3.35 | 2 | No data | 4.64 |
| Nkayi | 4.5 | 2 | No data | 4.5 |
| Nyanga | No data | No data | No data | 5 |
| Umguzu | 2.5 | 2 | No data | 3 |
| Umzingwane | 2.5 | 2 | No data | 5 |
| Zvishavane | 2.46 | 2 | No data | 3.53 |

- Distance to water sources is in Alarm in four (4) districts up from two in the previous month, and in Alert in 12 districts. Kariba is the only district in the normal with households travelling 1km to access water
- Bubi remains in Alarm category for Number of meals having only 1 meal a day for the past three months, households in these districts are employing a negative coping strategy of reducing number of meals to cope with the food insecurity caused by increases in food prices and low harvests. 15 districts are in the Alert category
- Water for livestock trekking distance is in Alarm in Nyanga where livestock trek an average of 5km to access water this is an improvement from 13km in June. Umzingwane is also in the Alarm category with 6km. Sixteen districts are in the Alert category.
- All schools are closed due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Proposed Mitigatory Activities

Water collecting remains largely the responsibility of women and children who walk long distances to collect it. ZRBF consortia should accelerate the rehabilitation of non-functional water points. By reducing the time taken to access clean water women are able to contribute to the sustainable development of their communities. The rehabilitation of water points should also consider the construction of water troughs to decongest existing water points for livestock.

Current planning processes on COVID 19 recovery interventions should include issues on food production, access and incomes layered in a way that help prevent and anticipate future outbreaks of malnutrition. Households without access to adequate food requirements should be linked with organisations providing emergency assistance.

4.4 Trade Trigger Indicators

Table 6: Trade trigger indicator summary for July 2020

| District | Cattle Price | Goat Price | Indigenous Chicken Price | Maize Price | Pearl Millet Price | Rapoko Price | Sheep Price | Sorghum Price |
|------------|--------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Beitbridge | 115 | 18 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 23 | 5 |
| Binga | 300 | 20 | 5 | 5 | 5 | No data | 25 | 5 |
| Bubi | 391 | 39 | 5 | 5 | 5 | No data | 59 | 5 |
| Chiredzi | 286 | 32 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 11 | 51 | 6 |
| Insiza | 500 | 50 | 5 | 9 | 12 | 15 | 60 | 8 |
| Kariba | 274 | 26 | 5 | 3 | No data | No data | 36 | 3.4 |
| Lupane | 235 | 26 | 5 | 10 | 5 | No data | 60 | 7 |
| Matobo | 450 | 40 | 5 | No data | 7 | No data | 40 | 8 |
| Mberengwa | 391 | 36 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 91 | 5 |
| Mbire | 165 | 21 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 31 | 4 |
| Mudzi | 276.92 | 29.54 | 4.46 | 5.62 | 7.58 | 8.64 | 48.85 | 6.75 |
| Mutoko | 265 | 33 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 55 | 8 |
| Mwenezi | 277 | 32 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 54 | 5 |
| Nkayi | 235 | 29 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 32 | 9 |
| Nyanga | 400 | 35 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 70 | 7 |
| Umguza | 411 | 29 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 41 | 6 |
| Umzingwane | 500 | 29 | 7 | 7 | 6 | No data | 47 | 9 |
| Zvishavane | 391 | 52 | 6 | 9 | 13 | 13 | 104 | 9 |

The trade indicators were converted to the USD using the official exchange rate as at 31 July of 76.75 ZWD to 1 USD. However, majority of the districts reported prices in USD and ZAR Rand this month as markets are favouring trade in foreign currency over the local currency.

- Cattle in Beitbridge are in the Emergency category selling for an average of 115 USD; 15 USD increase from the previous month as markets try to adjust to the exchange rate. Mbire is in the Alarm category and seven (7) districts are in the Alert category.
- Goat prices are in the Alarm category in Beitbridge where a goat is selling for 18 USD, prices fell below the normal prices owing to the weakening of the ZWD against the USD. Eight (8) districts are in the Alert category with prices below 30 USD.
- Pearl Millet, prices are above the normal threshold of 10USD in Zvishavane and Insiza owing to the scarcity of the commodity.
- 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 variations.

Proposed Mitigatory Activities

Cattle farming has the potential to increase the overall income of the farmers and raise their standard of living. Farmers are, therefore, encouraged to only 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.