

The Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF) High Frequency Monitoring Bulletin



Bulletin # 46: March 2021

Note to the Reader

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/>

The bulletin contains official information for the month of February 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), Fadzai Ncube (fadzai.ncube@undp.org) or Shupikayi Zimuto (shupikayi.zimuto@undp.org).

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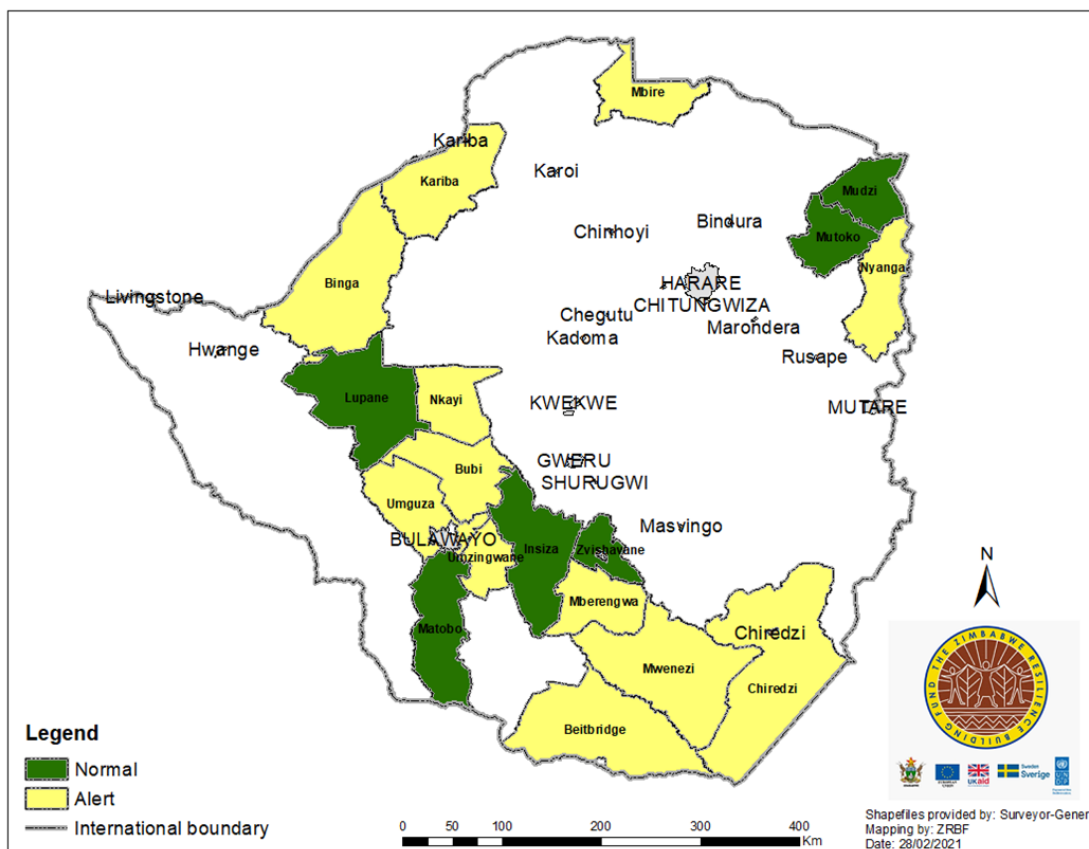


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1. Overall Results and Implications

Summary Classification



Key Highlights

According to the High Frequency Monitoring (HFM) classification, 12 districts were in the Alert category while six (6) were in the Normal Category. The following micro indicators, which in the Emergency Stage, drove this overall classification.

- Cattle Price in Beitbridge, Chiredzi and Mwenezi
- Mid-season dry spell in Beitbridge and Mberengwa
- Reported cases of livestock diseases in Mberengwa and Zvishavane
- Reported cases of waterborne diseases in Nkayi and Umguza

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	
Feb-21	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Normal	Alert	Normal	Normal	Alert	Alert	Normal	Normal	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Normal
Jan-21	Alert	Alert	Alert	Normal	Normal	Alert	Normal	Normal	Alert	Alert	Normal	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Normal
Dec-20	Alarm	Alarm	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Normal
Nov-20	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert
Oct-20	Alarm	Alarm	Alert	Alarm	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alarm	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alarm	Alert
Sept-20	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert
Aug-20	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert
July-20	Alert	Alarm	Alert	Alarm	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alarm	Alarm	Alert	Alert	Alarm	Alarm
June 20	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert
May-20	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert
April-20	Alarm	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alarm	Alert	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	Alert	Alarm	Alert	Alert	Alert

2. Status Update Macro-Indicators

2.1 Vegetation Condition Index

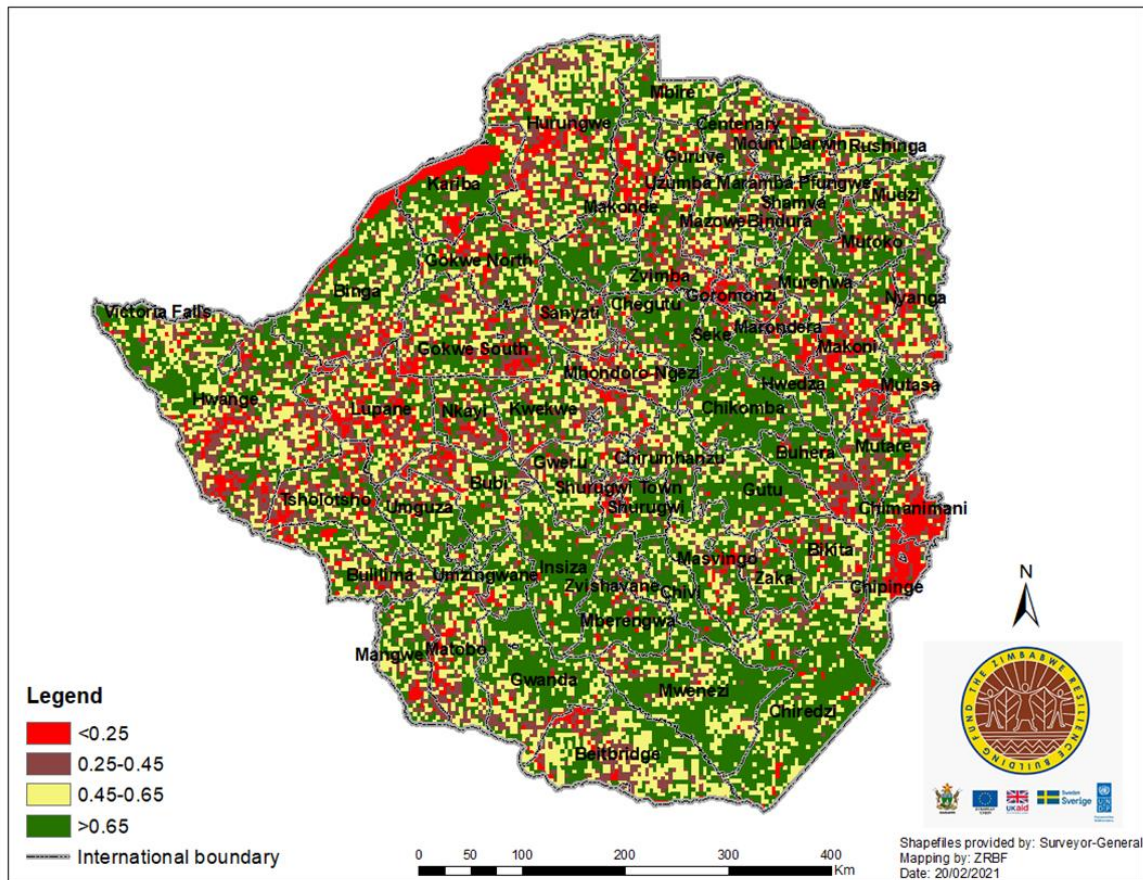


Figure 1: Vegetation Condition Index for March 2020

The Vegetation Condition Index shows improving vegetation condition in some districts culminating in the following classification:

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

District	VCI value	Crisis Modifier
Beitbridge	0.21	Emergency
Binga	0.57	Alert
Bubi	0.31	Alarm
Chiredzi	0.68	Normal
Insiza	0.2	Emergency
Kariba	0.62	Alert
Lupane	0.63	Alert
Matobo	0.11	Emergency
Mberengwa	0.62	Alert
Mbire	0.30	Alarm
Mudzi	0.62	Alert
Mutoko	0.63	Alert
Mwenezi	0.58	Alert
Nkayi	0.54	Alert
Nyanga	0.56	Alert
Umguza	0.63	Alert
Umzingwane	0.12	Emergency
Zvishavane	0.67	Normal

3.2 Real-time water levels in major rivers

Water levels figures were not yet available at the time of publication.

3. Summary of Broad Classification: Micro Trigger Indicators

The micro-indicator data from the 15 reported districts reflects those conditions in the four broad classes of indicators, biophysical, production and access indicators, are mostly in the Alert category. Binga, Kariba and Mbire Districts did not report this month as in the previous month too.

- Biophysical indicators are in the Alert category in Seven (7) districts down from eight (8) in the previous month. The rest of the eight (8) districts are in Normal Stage for Bio Physical indicators. There are no districts in the Alarm or Emergency category.
- Production indicators in eight (8) districts are in the Alert category no change from the previous month. Livestock body condition is improving in all districts, however there is an increase in reported cases of lumpy skin in Zvishavane and Mberengwa and ephemeral disease in the other districts.
- Access indicators are in the Alert category in seven (7) districts down from ten districts in Alert in the previous month. The rest of the districts are in the Normal stage These categorisations are mainly due to an improvement in, distance to water sources for households and water for livestock trekking distances as well as number of meals per day.
- Trade indicators are in Alert category in three districts down from five in the previous months, a significant improvement in prices as the market adjusted to the exchange rate fluctuations which pushed prices up in ZWL but reduced some to below the normal thresholds in USD.

Table 2: Trigger Indicator summary for March 2021

District	Biophysical Indicators	Production Indicators	Access Indicators	Trade Indicators
Beitbridge	Alert	Alert	Normal	Alert
Bubi	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert
Chiredzi	Alert	Normal	Alert	Normal
Insiza	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Lupane	Normal	Normal	Alert	Normal
Matobo	Normal	Normal	Alert	Normal
Mberengwa	Alert	Alert	Alert	Normal
Mudzi	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Mutoko	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Mwenezi	Normal	Normal	Alert	Normal
Nkayi	Normal	Alert	Normal	Normal
Nyanga	Alert	Alert	Normal	Normal
Umguza	Alert	Alert	Alert	Normal
Umzingwane	Alert	Alert	Normal	Alert
Zvishavane	Normal	Alert	Normal	Normal

4. Detailed Micro Trigger Indicators Update and Proposed Mitigatory Activities

4.1. Biophysical Trigger indicators

Table 3: Biophysical trigger indicator summary for March 2021

Biophysical Indicators				
District	Pastures Availability	Rainfall	State of Water Sources	Mid-season Dry Spells
Beitbridge	3	0	4	31
Bubi	4	No data	2	No data
Chiredzi	4	123.31	3	13
Insiza	4	25	3	0
Lupane	4	61.5	3	0
Matobo	4	45	3	0
Mberengwa	3	8.86	3	23
Mudzi	4	86.66	4	12
Mutoko	4	144	4	0
Mwenezi	4	20.47	3	8
Nkayi	4	78	3	No data
Nyanga	3	No data	No data	No data
Umguza	3	No data	3	No data
Umzingwane	3	No data	3	0
Zvishavane	4	10.89	4	6

- Pasture availability is in Alert category in five (5) districts down from eight in the previous month. There are no districts in Alarm and Emergency due to the above normal rainfall received which resuscitated the pastures. The rest of the 10 districts are in the normal category with pastures expected to last more than 6 months.
- Bubi district is in the Alarm category for State of water sources where less than 30%-65% of boreholes are functional. Nine (9) districts are in the Alert category and the rest are in the normal category.
- 14 Districts received rainfall in this month, except for Bubi which did not report on rainfall data, Chiredzi and Mutoko received above 100mm rainfall landing them in the Alert Category whilst the rest of the districts received normal rainfall as the rainy season tapers off.
- Two (2) districts are in Emergency for mid-season dry spells whilst Chiredzi and Mudzi are in Alert and the rest of the districts are in the normal category.

Proposed Mitigation Activities

- Farmers are encouraged to make wise use of the available pastures. Good pastures can be profitable for farmers since they are an economical source of livestock feed that can build soil fertility and reduce erosion which contribute to the fight against climate change. In the 5 districts who are in the alert category, farmers are encouraged create grazing systems that meet the needs of their livestock, pastures, soils, and the larger ecosystem.
- DRM committees should be activated and be on standby to respond to potential rainfall related hazards especially in Chiredzi and Mutoko. Early warning information with appropriate actions to take before, during and after emergencies should be disseminated in high-risk areas.
- To manage the risk of mid-season dry spells, farmers are advised to practice water retention methods like mulching, intercropping and other methods as advised by extension workers, that can help retain soil moisture. Stagger planting should be mainstreamed in advisories to minimise losses as risk is spread.

4.2 Production Trigger indicators

Table 4: Production trigger indicator summary for March 2021

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	4	3	0	358	0
Bubi	2	3	2	0	155	67
Chiredzi	2	3	3	0	40	18
Insiza	2	3	3	0	0	0
Lupane	3	4	3	0	0	0
Matobo	2	3	3	0	0	0
Mberengwa	2	3	2	0	4807	7
Mudzi	2	2	2	0	7	0
Mutoko	2	3	2	0	115	0
Mwenezi	3	3	2	0	14	0
Nkayi	2	4	3	6	16	176
Nyanga	3	3	3	0	395	0
Umguzu	3	3	2	0	54	266
Umzingwane	3	4	2	0	113	93
Zvishavane	2	3	3	0	650	27

- Beitbridge District is in the Alarm category for Crop Pests and diseases whilst nine (9) other districts in the Alert category due to FAW, armoured cricket and crop diseases caused by excessive rains. Crop condition is normal for the rest of the 13 districts.
- Only livestock poverty deaths have been reported for this month down from 46 reported in the previous month, Nkayi district is the only district in Alert with 6 deaths; The rest of the districts are in the normal category with zero (0) deaths reported.
- Livestock body condition is in Alert in seven (7) districts up from four in the previous month, this is mainly due to the increase in the number of livestock diseases.
- Mberengwa district remain in emergency for reported cases of livestock diseases for the past three months with 4361 cases of lumpy skin reported up from 636 in the previous month A total of 4807 cases of livestock diseases which include ephemeral, disease, fowl pox and foot rot have been reported in this district this month up from 1331 in the previous month. Zvishavane district joins Mberengwa in the Emergency category this month having been in Alarm in the past three months. Zvishavane recorded 642 lumpy skin cases. Five (5) districts are in the Alarm category, and five (5) districts are in the Alert category. Lumpy skin, ephemeral disease, fowl pox and foot rot remain the common cases reported across the districts.
- Nkayi and Umguza districts are in Emergency category for water borne diseases with high numbers of reported cases of Dysentery and common diarrhoea. Nkayi has been in the emergency category for the past three months with cases of dysentery. Four (4) districts are in the Alarm category and one district is in the Alert stage. There has been a reduction in the number of reported cases of waterborne diseases, mainly due to the intensification of Hygiene and sanitation messaging in response to COVID 19 and the drilling, rehabilitation of boreholes providing safe drinking water.

Proposed Mitigation Activities

- Department of Veterinary Services, farmers, Livestock development committees, ZRBF and relevant stakeholders should coordinate a response plan to control and manage the outbreak of lumpy skin especially in Zvishavane and Mberengwa. Movement controls are crucial to contain the outbreak. Vaccinations should be considered to reduce the negative implications of the disease.
- Public health awareness campaigns that integrate specific messages on the prevention of waterborne diseases and good sanitation practices should be conducted especially in Nkayi and Umguza. The affected community members should be encouraged to take oral rehydration (salt and sugar) solution while seeking medical attention at the nearest health centre.

4.3 Access Trigger Indicators

Table 5: Access trigger indicator summary for March 2021

Access Indicators				
District	Distances to Water Sources for Households	Number of Meals	School Attendance	Water for Livestock Trekking Distance
Beitbridge	1	3	No data	2
Bubi	2	3	3	1
Chiredzi	1.12	2	3	1.32
Insiza	2	3	4	1
Lupane	2	3	4	2
Matobo	2	3	4	2
Mberengwa	1.29	2	4	1.33
Mudzi	0.658	2	4	0.625
Mutoko	0.5	2	4	0.5
Mwenezi	1.87	2	3	1.52
Nkayi	1	3	3	1
Nyanga	1	No data	No data	1
Umguza	2	3	3	2
Umzingwane	2	3	4	1
Zvishavane	1.15	3	4	1.62

- Distance to water sources is in Alert in 10 districts up from 8 in the previous month. There are no districts in Alarm and Emergency as access to water increases. The Wash Grant and crisis modifier activities enabled an increase in the number of boreholes drilled, rehabilitated and solarised as well as piped water scheme which brought water closer to the communities.
- Five (5) out of the 15 districts that reported are in the Alert category for number of meals a day a significant improvement from 12 in the previous months. As the harvest season commences, the number of meals per day has increased from 2 to three. Nine districts are in the normal category and Nyanga did not report on this indicator.
- Water for livestock trekking distance is in Alert in four (4) districts and the rest of the 11 are in the normal category.
- School attendance has been between 2-3 days as the lockdown was eased and schools opened.

Proposed Mitigatory Activities

As the harvest season commences, district civil protection structures and traditional leaders should put in place social safety net systems such as *zunde ramambo* which encourages stockpiling of cereals meant to support food insecure households during the lean period. More broadly, there is need to create awareness among policymakers, scientists, extension services, health authorities and development organizations of the need to develop an enabling policy framework which supports and strengthens the capacity of communities to conserve, produce and utilize traditional grain, indigenous vegetables and other local foods that can support households during times of stress.

4.4 Trade Trigger Indicators

Table 6: Trade trigger indicator summary for March 2021

District	Cattle Price	Goat Price	Indigenous Chicken Price	Maize Price	Pearl Millet Price	Rapoko Price	Sheep Price	Sorghum Price
Beitbridge	428	35	6	7	7	No data	50	7
Bubi	350	42	5	7	No data	No data	50	No data
Chiredzi	303	35	6	8	8	12	55	6
Insiza	450	50	6	7	7	No data	60	7
Lupane	400	40	6	7	6	8	50	6
Matobo	400	40	6	7	7	9	50	6
Mberengwa	400	35	5	7	8	10	60	8
Mudzi	241.6	27.92	5	7	8	8.2	46.66	5.67
Mutoko	350	35	5	7	10	10	40	10
Mwenezi	360	45	6	7.6	7	13	80	7
Nkayi	350	40	6	7	7	10	60	10
Nyanga	450	45	5	4	6	8	65	5
Umguza	500	35	6	6	7	10	70	No data
Umzingwane	500	57	8	7	No data	No data	70	No data
Zvishavane	400	40	5	7	6	6	60	6

The trade indicators were converted to the USD using the official exchange rate as at 26 February of 83.88 ZWD to 1 USD. However, majority of the districts are now reporting prices in USD and ZAR Rand as markets are favouring trade in foreign currency over the local currency.

- Cattle prices are in Alert in in Mudzi district with cattle prices following below the normal threshold of 300 USD. The rest of the 14 districts are in the normal category, signalling favourable conditions in the markets.
- Goat prices are in the Alert category in Mudzi where a goat is selling for 28 USD, however this is an improvement from the price of 20USD in the previous months.
- Indigenous Chickens, sheep maize, pearl millet and sorghum prices are in the Normal category for all the districts.
- Rapoko prices are in Alert in four districts and in Alarm in Zvishavane where a 20l bucket is selling for 6 USD.
- 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

Farmers in the target areas should leverage on ZRBF's work on market linkages, use of technology and market apps, so that they can participate in the market on their own terms. They should use this capacity to make better decisions and derive profits from their crops and livestock.