

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



Bulletin # 45: February 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 January 2021 was 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) and Shupikayi Zimuto (shupikayi.zimuto@undp.org).

UNDP Zimbabwe,

ZRBF Programme Management Unit

Arundel Office Park, Block 9,

Norfolk Rd, Mt. Pleasant,

Harare, Zimbabwe

+263 4 338836-44

Website: www.zrbf.co.zw

Database: <https://197.155.231.242/undp/ZRBF/HFMS/>

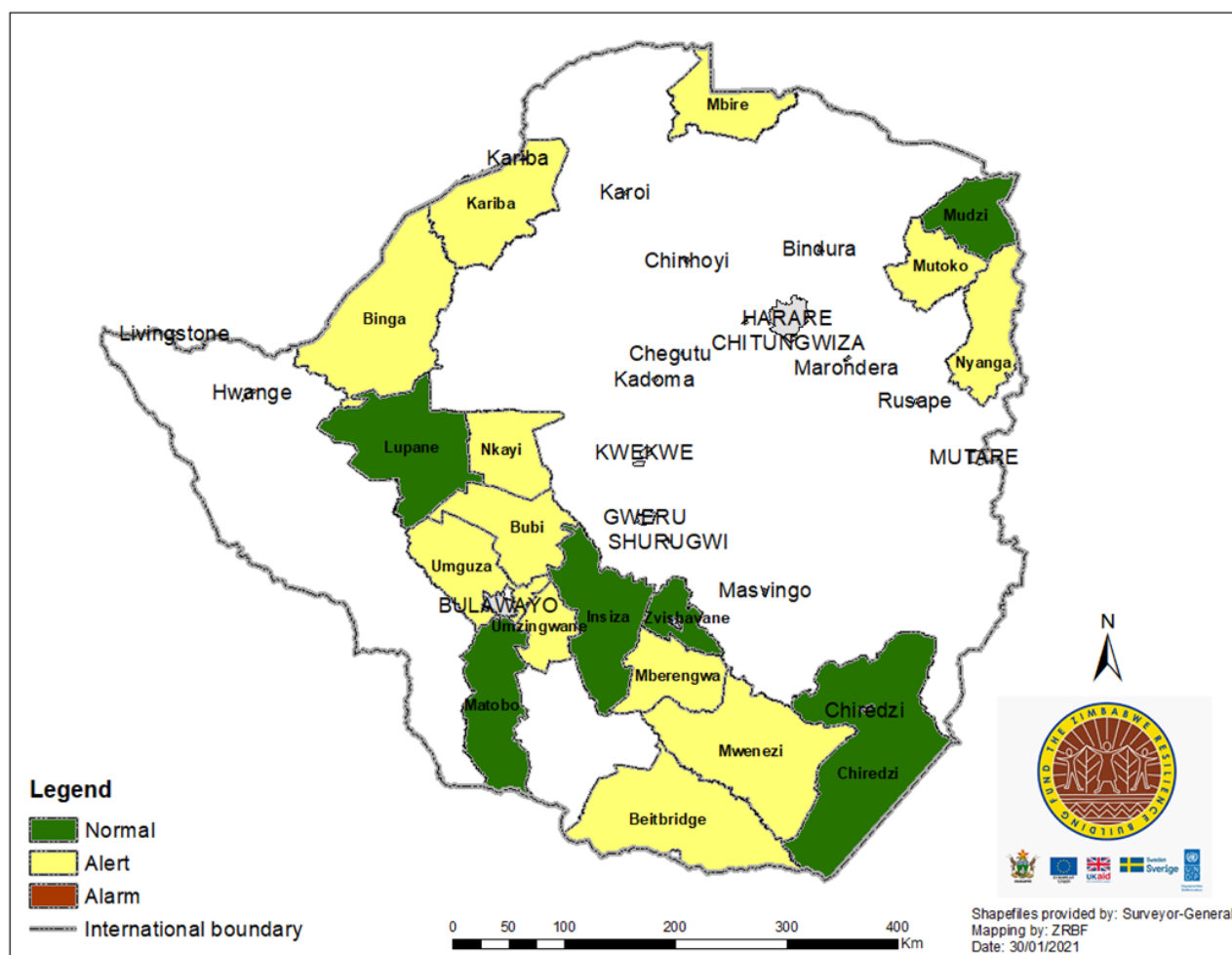


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1. Overall Results and Implications

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 are in the Emergency Stage, drove this overall classification.

- High rainfall received in Nyanga, Umguza and Umzingwane
- Reported cases of livestock diseases in Mberengwa
- Reported cases of waterborne diseases in Nkayi and Umzingwane
- No school attendance in all districts due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions

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	
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
Feb-20	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	No data	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert

2. Status Update Macro-Indicators

2.1 Vegetation Condition Index

There was no Vegetation Condition Index imagery found for the month of January 2021, possibly due to high percentage of cloud cover during the image acquisition days.

2.2 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.

- Biophysical indicators are in Alarm in two districts down from three districts in Alarm in January. Eight districts are in the Alert category down from 12 in the previous month. The rest of the five (5) districts are in Normal Stage for Bio Physical indicators. The improvements are mainly attributed to the excessive rainfalls and the improvement in the state of water sources.
- 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 10 districts up from eight 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 five districts mainly due 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 January 2021

District	Biophysical Indicators	Production Indicators	Access Indicators	Trade Indicators
Beitbridge	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert
Bubi	Alert	Alert	Alert	Alert
Chiredzi	Normal	Normal	Alert	Alert
Insiza	Alert	Normal	Alert	Normal
Lupane	Alert	Normal	Alert	Normal
Matobo	Normal	Normal	Alert	Normal
Mberengwa	Alert	Alert	Alert	Normal
Mudzi	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Mutoko	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Mwenezi	Alert	Normal	Alert	Alert
Nkayi	Alert	Alert	Normal	Normal
Nyanga	Alert	Alert	Alert	Normal
Umguza	Alarm	Alert	Alert	Normal
Umzingwane	Alarm	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 January 2021

Biophysical Indicators				
District	Pastures Availability	Rainfall	State of Water Sources	Mid-season Dry Spells
Beitbridge	3	39	4	2
Bubi	3	192	3	3
Chiredzi	4	83.61	3	3
Insiza	4	155.5	3	0
Lupane	4	168	3	0
Matobo	4	68	3	0
Mberengwa	3	312.33	3	0
Mudzi	4	40.266	No data	0
Mutoko	4	84.56	3	0
Mwenezi	4	190.31	3	0
Nkayi	3	58	3	No data
Nyanga	4	1200	3	No data
Umguza	3	634	3	No data
Umzingwane	3	620.3	3	No data
Zvishavane	4	229.42	4	0

- Pasture availability is in Alert category in 8 districts a vast improvement from the Emergency and Alarm categorisations of November and December, 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.
- Umzingwane district is in the Alarm category for State of water sources where less than 30%-65% of boreholes are functional. This is an improvement from the previous month where less than 30% of the boreholes were functional. 11 districts are in the Alert category an improvement from Alarm in the previous month and four (11). The improvement is attributed to the WASH grant and CRISIS modifier activities which enabled increase in the number of boreholes rehabilitated across the 18 districts.
- All 16 Districts recorded excessive rainfall in this month, except for Bubi which did not report on rainfall data.
- Two (2) districts are in normal for mid-season dry spells whilst the rest of the districts are in the normal category

Proposed Mitigation Activities

- The consistent availability of forage is important for livestock sustenance. Farmers can take advantage of this to feed more livestock and earn more income. For areas in the alert category, farmers are encouraged to adjust their management practices by ensuring that they are not too many animals on few acres of land which lead to complete overgrazing, loss of productivity and soil degradation. The

resulting bare spots encourage weed growth, erosion and runoff of nutrients into nearby water sources thus limiting the amount of water that can filter into the soil.

- ZRBF in collaboration with District WASH committees should continue monitoring water infrastructure with priority being given to Umzingwane. This will ensure that structures affected by flash floods are included in local response plans and resources allocated for their rehabilitation.
- DRM committees should be on high alert for rainfall related hazards and be active in disseminating locally understandable and relevant early warning information that enable communities at risk to take appropriate actions and act in good time.

4.2 Production Trigger indicators

Table 4: Production trigger indicator summary for January 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	188	0
Bubi	3	4	3	47	143	56
Chiredzi	3	3	3	0	16	0
Insiza	2	4	3	0	0	0
Lupane	2	3	3	0	0	0
Matobo	2	3	3	0	0	0
Mberengwa	2	3	2	0	1331	34
Mudzi	2	4	3	0	29	0
Mutoko	2	3	3	0	46	0
Mwenezi	3	3	2	0	116	0
Nkayi	3	4	3	2	60	185
Nyanga	2	4	2	0	137	0
Umguza	3	4	2	0	34	0
Umzingwane	1	3	3	0	70	120
Zvishavane	2	3	3	0	418	56

- Beitbridge and Umzingwane Districts are in the Alarm category for Crop Pests and diseases whilst eight (8) other districts in the Alert category due to FAW, armoured cricket and crop diseases caused by excessive rains. Crop condition is normal for all 18 districts.
- 49 livestock poverty deaths have been reported for this month down from 106 reported in the previous month, Bubi district is the only district in Alarm with 46 deaths; The rest of the districts are in the normal category with 0 – 2 deaths reported. Significant improvement in livestock body condition, pasture availability and water for livestock trekking distance which have contributed to the reduction in the livestock poverty deaths. Interventions such as fodder production and preservation, subsidised livestock feed have also been key in the reduction of livestock poverty deaths.

- There has been a significant improvement for livestock body condition which is in Alert from four (4) districts and normal for the rest. This is attributed to the good rainfall received which resuscitated the pastures as well as a reduction in water for livestock trekking distance caused by filling up of water sources such as dams as well as the rehabilitation of boreholes and construction of livestock watering troughs across the 18 districts.
- Mberengwa district is in emergency for reported cases of livestock diseases with 636 cases of lumpy skin reported up from 52 in the previous month. A total of 1331 cases of livestock diseases which include ephemeral, disease, fowl pox and foot rot have been reported in this district this month.. Five districts are in the Alarm category, up from only one (1) in the previous month and six (6) 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 Umzingwane districts are in Emergency category for water borne diseases with high numbers of reported cases of Dysentery and common diarrhoea. Two (2) districts are in the Alarm category down from four and one district is in Alert. 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

- Building on the strength of livestock protection interventions and a favorable rainfall season that rejuvenated pastures, farmers are encouraged to keep detailed records on livestock stocking rate, livestock performance, and forage production. This will help them in making timely management decisions that boost profitability. In areas where livestock poverty deaths were recorded, farmers should diversify feeding strategies as part of preparedness measures for the coming livestock feed lean season.
- Farmers, ZRBF and livestock development committees should engage the Department of Veterinary Services and relevant stakeholders to put in place appropriate control and prevention measures such as movement control (quarantine), vaccination and slaughter campaigns to manage lumpy skin with priority being given to Mberengwa which is in the emergency category.
- Rapid response health teams should deploy in Nkayi and Umzingwane districts where water borne diseases are in the emergency category with the view to support rural health centres and community health structures to contain the outbreak. Emergency WASH toolkit and ORS kits should be considered for use in high risk areas and for affected people.

4.3 Access Trigger Indicators

Table 5: Access trigger indicator summary for January 2021

Access Indicators				
District	Distances to Water Sources for Households	Number of Meals	School Attendance	Water for Livestock Trekking Distance
Beitbridge	2	2	No data	2
Bubi	2	2	No data	1
Chiredzi	0.62	2	1	0.69
Insiza	2	2	No data	1
Lupane	2	2	No data	1
Matobo	2	2	No data	1
Mberengwa	1.14	2	No data	0
Mudzi	0.658	3	No data	0.625
Mutoko	0.75	3	No data	1
Mwenezi	1.6	2	1	1.09
Nkayi	1	2	No data	1
Nyanga	1	2	No data	2
Umguzu	2.5	2	No data	2.5
Umzingwane	1	2	No data	1
Zvishavane	0.83	3	No data	0.36

- Distance to water sources is in Alert in 8 districts a reduction from 12 in the previous month. There are no districts in Alarm. 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.
- 12 out of the 15 districts that reported are in the Alert category for number of meals a day.
- Water for livestock trekking distance is in Alert in three (3) districts and the rest of the 12 are in the normal category.
- There was no school attendance data due to the lockdown.

Proposed Mitigatory Activities

More households accessed at least two meals per day due to increased availability and use of seasonal traditional vegetables. To promote improved access to nutritious and health meals, more can be done to develop, document and distribute information related to community-based indigenous vegetables conservation and utilization practices and systems.

4.4 Trade Trigger Indicators

Table 6: Trade trigger indicator summary for January 2020

District	Cattle Price	Goat Price	Indigenous Chicken Price	Maize Price	Pearl Millet Price	Rapoko Price	Sheep Price	Sorghum Price
Beitbridge	320	42	6	7	7	7	50	7
Bubi	350	42	5	No	No data	No data	No data	No data
Chiredzi	300	30	6	9	9	9	50	6
Insiza	450	50	6	7	7	No data	60	7
Lupane	300	30	6	6	6	10	50	6
Matobo	350	40	6	6	6	9	50	6
Mberengwa	400	35	5	7	8	10	60	7
Mudzi	242	28	5	7	8	8	47	6
Mutoko	350	35	7	7	10	10	50	10
Mwenezi	362	50	6	9	5	11	80	6
Nkayi	350	40	6	No	No data	No data	50	No data
Nyanga	300	40	5	7	8	12	80	8
Umguza	500	35	10	6	No data	No data	No data	No data
Umzingwane	500	35	6	No	No data	No data	70	No data
Zvishavane	400	40	5	7	10	12	50	6

The trade indicators were converted to the USD using the official exchange rate as at 29 January of 82.675 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 month.
- Indigenous Chickens, sheep maize, pearl millet and sorghum prices are in the Normal category for all the districts.
- Rapoko prices are in Alert in three 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 variations.

Proposed Mitigatory Activities

Livestock production has the potential to increase the overall income of the farmers and raise their standard of living. Farmers are, therefore, encouraged to take advantage of the most favourable markets and to make valuations that allow them to take advantage of niche markets.