

Zimbabwe

**CURRENTLY, OVER 4.3 MILLION PEOPLE
NEED URGENT ATTENTION IN ZIMBABWE**

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

February - June 2020

Issued in March 2020

CURRENT - FEBRUARY TO JUNE 2020

4.34M
45% of the rural population

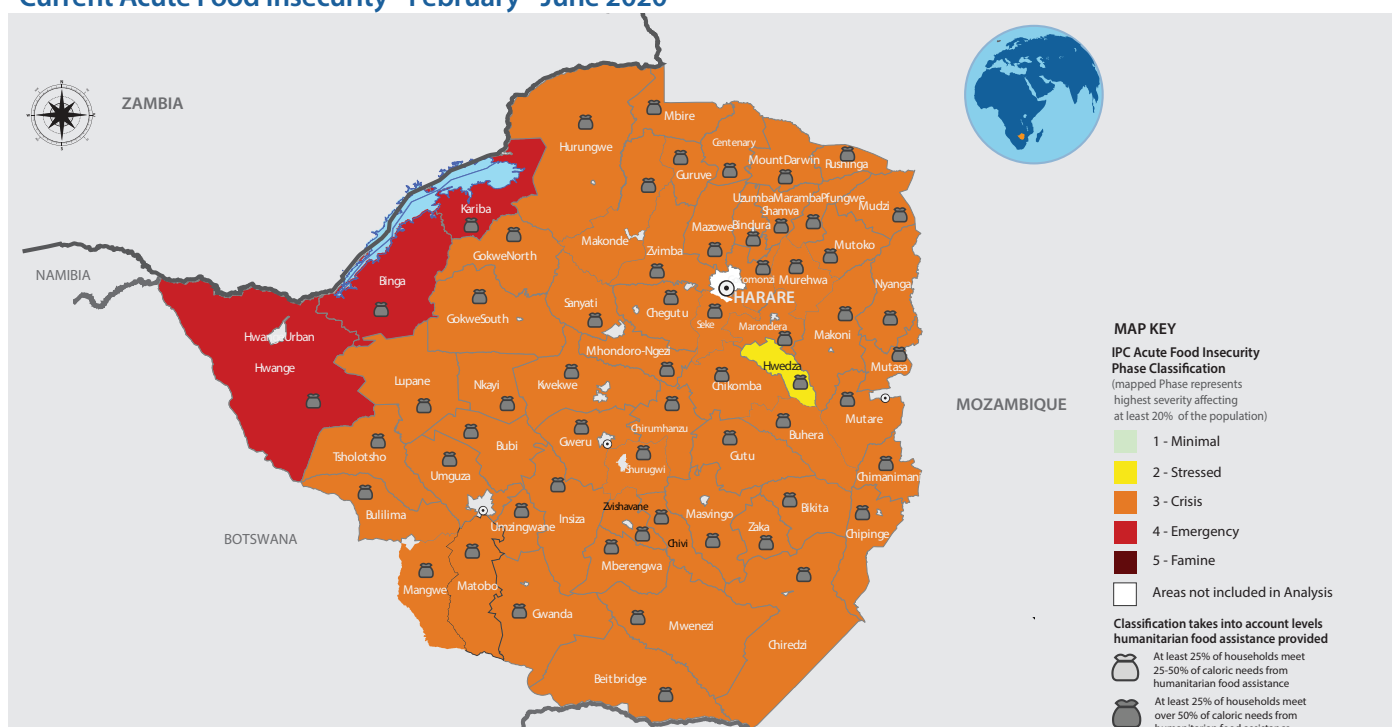
People facing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+)

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	1 047 085 People in Emergency
Phase 3	3 294 335 People in Crisis
Phase 2	2 784 135 People in Stressed
Phase 1	2 580 562 People minimally food insecure

NOTE: The IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis was conducted as a culmination of an extensive ZimVAC process, including the ZimVAC 2020 Food and Nutrition Security Update, compilation and analysis of assessment data and the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis workshop. The purpose of the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Classification is to call attention to populations in need of urgent assistance to protect and save livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps that are classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and Emergency (IPC Phase 4). In addition, populations classified in Stressed conditions (IPC Phase 2) are also considered as acutely food insecure and remain highly vulnerable to further shocks. Those populations also require support to ensure their livelihoods can be sustained and to prevent further deterioration into Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

Current Acute Food Insecurity - February - June 2020



Overview

Currently, 45% of the rural population is in Crisis or Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and 4) while 29% is Stressed (IPC Phase 2). This is a deterioration from the last analysis conducted in June 2019, when 38% of the total population was in IPC Phase 3 and higher. The increase in the number of acutely food insecure population is primarily due to the lean season expected to extend until June. Review of the severity of the drivers of food insecurity in Zimbabwe shows that more households would likely be in a more challenging food security situation in the absence of a large-scale humanitarian food assistance programme ongoing in the country. The Government and partners are reaching large numbers of food insecure households, and genuine efforts need to continue to reach the most vulnerable households and to provide them food, cash and livelihood assistance.

Key Drivers



Poor Rains

The poor rainfall season with late start of rains in most districts of Zimbabwe has resulted in delayed or no green harvest, reduced water availability for livestock and households.



Low Production

A poor harvest in 2019 has forced many households to become more reliant on markets to access staple food items. The poor season has also led to fewer casual labour opportunities which many poor households depend on for income.



High Food Prices

High prices of food items and other basic commodities mean that for many rural households normal purchases are no longer possible, and reliance on external assistance and social networks for food has become normal.

IPC Analysis Partners:



CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW

For the period February to June 2020, the proportion of rural people facing a Crisis situation or more acute (IPC Phase 3-4) is 45% (4,341,367). Thus, 45% of the rural population currently requires urgent action. A total of 2,784,135 people (29% of the rural population) in Zimbabwe are in the Stressed phase (IPC Phase 2). This is attributed to the households facing reduced access to food and income amid macro-economic challenges.

The following are the key drivers: The poor rainfall season with late start of rains in most districts of Zimbabwe has resulted in delayed or no green harvest, and reduced water availability for livestock and households. Households are running out of food stocks mainly as a result of the poor 2019 harvest compounded by below average harvest from the 2018 harvest. Incomes are reduced, and for most households, the most significant income sources are casual labour, selling of livestock, and remittances. Casual labour opportunities are typically agriculture-related and are currently low, together with the associated income due to the poor performance of the 2019/20 rainfall season. This situation has forced many households to dispose of assets and reduce expenditure on essential items. Reliance on external assistance and social networks for food has become normal.

Assistance is a major food source for households in rural areas. As per the results of the Lean Season Assessment 2020, on average, 78% of households interviewed reported having received assistance between April and December 2019. Assistance programmes have continued, and their coverage and scale has increased since December 2019 in order to respond to the increased needs over the peak of the lean season. As of January 2019, all 60 rural districts had households receiving assistance from either the government or partners.

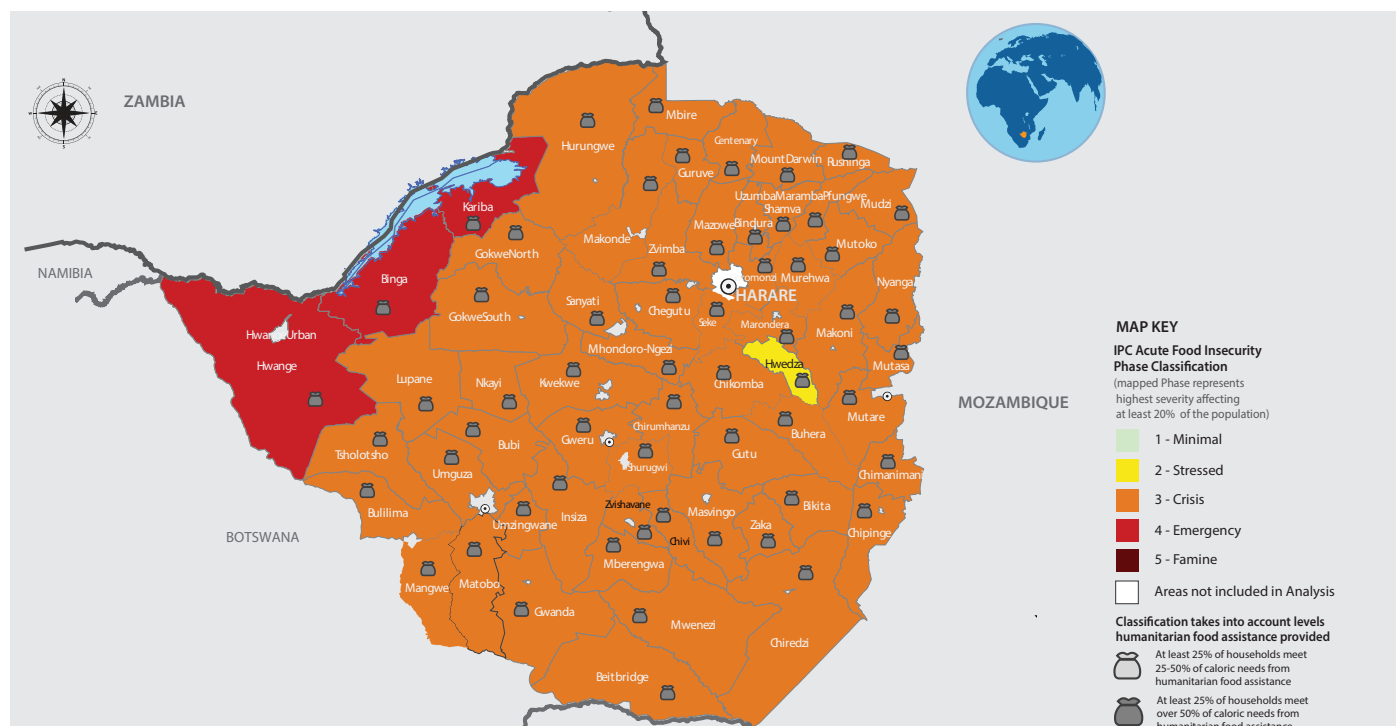
Focus on the most food insecure districts

Three districts were classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) for the February-June 2020 period: Hwange, Kariba and Binga. Hwange district in Matabeleland North was classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) with 20% of the population in Phase 4 and 25% in Phase 3. In Hwange, the Phase 4 situation is characterised by poor rainfall which caused withering of the crops planted in Oct-Nov. Flooding experienced in February destroyed any hope of green harvest in March and exacerbated the food insecurity situation. Households no longer have food stocks. Furthermore, livestock is an important livelihood source in the area, but around 20% of households had already resorted to selling their last female livestock by the time of the assessment in early February, depleting productive assets. There are also reports of increased cases of acute malnutrition in Hwange.

In the neighbouring district of Binga, the situation is similar to that of Hwange. In Binga, 30% of the total population was classified in Phase 3, and 20% in Phase 4. Binga, like Hwange, experienced a late start of the rainfall season and flooding in February. Households are experiencing low food stocks. In both Binga and Hwange, households are also pulling their children from school and reducing essential non-food expenditure such as health expenditure. In both districts, sale of productive livestock is also common.

The third district classified in Phase 4 is Kariba in Mashonaland West. In Kariba, 20% of the households are classified in Phase 4, and 30% in Phase 3. Kariba is a chronically food insecure district with high vulnerability of households to acute shocks and high food insecurity. Kariba is an area with very limited livelihood opportunities, largely related to agriculture, and the poor seasonal performance has led households to a situation where they have very low income to meet high food prices, leading to food gaps. Households are forced to sell productive assets, including productive livestock, and around 10% of households have also had to sell their last female livestock due to food deficits. Households are also highly reliant on assistance through social networks, with around 20% of households reporting asking for assistance or borrowing from extended family or community members.

CURRENT IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY FOR FEB- JUNE 2020



Population Table by Province

Province	Population Total	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Phase 3 +	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%
Manicaland	1,650,883	398,936	24	472,329	29	594,720	36	184,898	11	0	0	779,610	47
Mashonaland Central	1,201,190	283,348	23	372,338	31	462,979	39	82,524	7	0	0	545,496	46
Mashonaland East	1,340,248	438,575	32	329,644	25	429,167	32	142,862	11	0	0	572,021	43
Mashonaland West	1,266,509	496,620	39	290,456	23	324,550	26	154,883	12	0	0	479,429	38
Masvingo	1,494,801	320,580	21	412,679	28	578,973	39	182,570	12	0	0	761,536	51
Matabeleland North	741,242	179,613	24	237,041	32	210,657	28	113,931	15	0	0	324,581	43
Matabeleland South	667,043	136,543	20	212,021	32	240,307	36	78,173	12	0	0	318,475	48
Midlands	1,344,202	326,348	24	457,628	34	452,982	34	107,244	8	0	0	560,219	42
National	9,706,118	2,580,562	26	2,784,135	29	3,294,335	34	1,047,085	11	0	0	4,341,367	45

Notes

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, thus, they may be in need of continued action. This IPC classification met the Medium level of evidence required (** Medium). For detailed population data, see table by district in annex 1 on page 8.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

- In light of the high prevalence of acute food insecurity, there is an urgent need to scale up of current assistance to reduce food consumption gaps and protect/save livelihoods for the 4.34 million people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and above.
- In response to increased vulnerability, the Government and its development partners are encouraged to continue efforts to improve efficiency in the identification of beneficiaries e.g. through establishment of electronic beneficiary databases.
- Management of Food Aid: Government should take far-reaching and monitorable actions to reform the way Zimbabwe receives and manages food aid. Management of Food Aid should be in-line with the "Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness" particularly item 3(ii) - increasing alignment of aid with partner country's priorities, systems and procedures and helping to strengthen their capacities.
- Livelihood resilience: rural livelihoods are under a lot of pressure due to consecutive poor rainfall seasons and high prices of inputs, forcing households to result to alternative livelihoods such as casual labour that provide low and unstable income. Emphasis should be put on rebuilding rural livelihoods through e.g. income diversification, household economy strengthening and building productive community assets.
- Crop Production - Government to consider the importance and urgency of efforts to build resilience against climate variability and climate change amongst the rural populations of Zimbabwe. These efforts could include stepping up the promotion of climate-smart agriculture, water harvesting and irrigation development, particularly in the most drought-prone areas
- Livestock Production: Livestock drought mitigation strategies need to be prioritized in areas that suffer most from the drought and where livestock makes the most significant contribution to households' livelihoods. The mitigation strategies could include (i) Provision of subsidised livestock feeds and animal drugs; and (ii) Facilitating access to relief grazing.
- Income and Expenditure - Interventions that strengthen households' economy and resilience are thus recommended to ensure households remain food and nutrition secure.
- Child Nutrition: In view of results showing increasing levels of acute malnutrition in several districts, Supplementary Feeding Programmes (CSFP) should be prioritised as a matter of urgency especially for districts with Global Acute Malnutrition above 5%. Livelihoods and food security interventions coupled with nutrition education programmes should be implemented alongside emergency response programmes to ensure consumption of diverse and micronutrient rich foods while simultaneously building community resilience to future shocks that compromise household food and nutrition security. There is need for a robust and real-time community-based surveillance system to constantly monitor the tenuous nutritional situation.
- Shocks and Hazards - Government and development partners should consider broadening social protection and resilience building programmes in order to strengthen absorptive and adaptive capacities of at-risk communities through scaling up of programmes such as Harmonised Social Cash transfers and Productive Community Works targeting both labour and non-labour constrained households.

Situation Monitoring

The economic situation will be a key aspect to monitor as it is likely to influence the evolution of prices which will influence households' access to food on the market. In addition, monitoring of the progress of the ongoing rainy season and crop development is crucial in order to understand the evolution of the situation and potential need for shifting/augmenting type and scale of humanitarian assistance programmes. Specific indicators and risk factors to monitor are:

- Rainfall patterns and water availability
- Crop development and potential harvest
- Inflation
- Prices of basic food commodities and inputs
- Livestock prices and terms of trade
- Remittances
- Food stocks (national)
- Crop pests and animal diseases
- Acute malnutrition admissions

PROCESS, METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

Process and Methodology

- The IPC acute analysis was led by the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZIMVAC), in close collaboration with the IPC Global Support Unit and country partners WFP, and FEWSNET.
- Key partners formed a core team and provided technical support for the data preparation and the analysis.
- The IPC Acute analysis process started with a short IPC refresher training and concluded with 5 days of analysis, which took place from 22 to 26 February.
- The analysis was attended by 57 participants from Government, UN and technical agencies.
- Analysts were grouped into provincial teams to undertake the analysis for each district in that respective province.
- IPC district Phase classifications were vetted in plenary and consensus was reached for all districts.

Limitations of the Analysis

- Data on humanitarian food assistance required understanding of the actual situation regarding aid distributions and cross-checking statistics on distributions with field reports. There was no consolidated database to accurately indicate the levels of support in each district.

Sources

- ZimVAC 2020 Lean Season Assessment
- FEWSNET USGS CHIRPS 2019/20 rainfall information
- WFP Weekly Markets Monitoring
- Meteorological Services Department data on cumulative rainfall
- FEWSNET Price Projections
- AGRITEX Crop and Livestock Report
- ZINWA data on status of dams
- ZIMSTAT inflation and food poverty datum line data

What is the IPC and IPC Acute Food Insecurity?

The IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity and characteristics of acute food and nutrition crises as well as chronic food insecurity based on international standards. The IPC consists of four mutually reinforcing functions, each with a set of specific protocols (tools and procedures). The core IPC parameters include consensus building, convergence of evidence, accountability, transparency and comparability. The IPC analysis aims at informing emergency response as well as medium and long-term food security policy and programming.

For the IPC, Acute Food Insecurity is defined as any manifestation of food insecurity found in a specified area at a specific point in time of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration. It is highly susceptible to change and can occur and manifest in a population within a short amount of time, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity.

Contact for further Information

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This analysis has been conducted under the patronage of the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee. It has benefited from the technical support of the Government of Zimbabwe, IPC GSU, FAO, WFP, UNDP-ZRBF.

Classification of food insecurity and malnutrition was conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC, FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.

IPC Analysis Partners:





ANNEX 1: CURRENT IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY FOR FEB - JUNE 2020

Province	District	Total # (PP)	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3 and higher	
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		#	%
Manicaland	Buhera	268,913	26,891	10	80,674	30	121,011	45	40,337	15	0	0	3	161,346	60
	Chimanimani	147,582	51,654	35	36,896	25	44,275	30	14,758	10	0	0	3	59,032	40
	Chipinge	326,838	98,051	30	130,735	40	65,368	20	32,684	10	0	0	3	98,050	30
	Makoni	297,854	89,356	30	59,571	20	134,034	45	14,893	5	0	0	3	148,926	50
	Mutare	286,681	43,002	15	86,004	30	114,672	40	43,002	15	0	0	3	157,674	55
	Mutasa	184,556	55,367	30	36,911	20	73,822	40	18,456	10	0	0	3	92,277	50
	Nyanga	138,459	34,615	25	41,538	30	41,538	30	20,769	15	0	0	3	62,305	45
Mashonaland Central	Bindura	136,950	34,238	25	34,238	25	61,628	45	6,848	5	0	0	3	68,474	50
	Centenary	135,662	40,699	30	47,482	35	33,916	25	13,566	10	0	0	3	47,481	35
	Guruve	255,321	63,830	25	76,596	30	102,128	40	12,766	5	0	0	3	114,894	45
	Mazowe	90,098	22,525	25	22,525	25	40,544	45	4,505	5	0	0	3	45,048	50
	Mbire	2,32,654	46,531	20	93,062	40	69,796	30	23,265	10	0	0	3	93,061	40
	Mountdarwin	134,295	26,859	20	33,574	25	67,148	50	6,715	5	0	0	3	73,861	55
	Rushinga	80,976	8,098	10	24,293	30	40,488	50	8,098	10	0	0	3	48,585	60
	Shamva	135,234	40,570	30	40,570	30	47,332	35	6,762	5	0	0	3	54,092	40
Mashonaland East	Chikomba	131,405	45,992	35	26,281	20	39,422	30	19,711	15	0	0	3	59,131	45
	Goromonzi	246,065	98,426	40	24,607	10	86,123	35	36,910	15	0	0	3	123,031	50
	Hwedza	77,617	38,809	50	27,166	35	11,643	15	0	0	0	0	2	11,642	15
	Marondera	127,945	38,384	30	44,781	35	44,781	35	0	0	0	0	3	44,780	35
	Mudzi	145,736	36,434	25	36,434	25	51,008	35	21,860	15	0	0	3	72,867	50
	Murehwa	218,307	54,577	25	76,407	35	76,407	35	10,915	5	0	0	3	87,322	40
	Mutoko	159,817	31,963	20	47,945	30	55,936	35	23,973	15	0	0	3	79,907	50
	Seke	110,195	38,568	35	27,549	25	33,059	30	11,020	10	0	0	3	44,077	40
	Uzumbamarambapfungwe	123,161	55,422	45	18,474	15	30,790	25	18,474	15	0	0	3	49,264	40
Mashonaland West	Chegutu	168050	58818	35	42,013	25	50,415	30	16,805	10	0	0	3	67,220	40
	Hurungwe	360038	126013	35	72,008	20	108,011	30	54,006	15	0	0	3	162,016	45
	Kariba	45245	9049	20	13,574	30	13,574	30	9,049	20	0	0	4	22,622	50
	Makonde	167924	83962	50	33,585	20	33,585	20	16,792	10	0	0	3	50,376	30
	Mhondoro-ngezi	114117	39941	35	28,529	25	28,529	25	17,118	15	0	0	3	45,646	40
	Sanyati	123474	49390	40	43,216	35	18,521	15	12,347	10	0	0	3	30,868	25
	Zvimba	287661	129447	45	57,532	20	71,915	25	28,766	10	0	0	3	100,681	35
Masvingo	Bikita	177566	44392	25	53,270	30	53,270	30	26,635	15	0	0	3	79,903	45
	Chiredzi	301594	60319	20	75,399	25	120,638	40	45,239	15	0	0	3	165,876	55
	Chivi	181605	36321	20	54,482	30	72,642	40	18,161	10	0	0	3	90,802	50
	Gutu	222109	55527	25	66,633	30	77,738	35	22,211	10	0	0	3	99,948	45
	Masvingo	231003	57751	25	57,751	25	92,401	40	23,100	10	0	0	3	115,501	50
	Mwenezi	182638	36528	20	45,660	25	73,055	40	27,396	15	0	0	3	100,450	55
	Zaka	198286	29743	15	59,486	30	89,229	45	19,829	10	0	0	3	109,056	55



Population Table (continued)

Province	District	Total # (PP)	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3 and higher	
			#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%		#	%
Matabeleland North	Binga	152,123	38,031	25	38,031	25	45,637	30	30,425	20	0	0	4	76,060	50
	Bubi	67,681	20,304	30	23,688	35	16,920	25	67,68	10	0	0	3	23,688	35
	Hwange	68,541	20,562	30	17,135	25	17,135	25	13,708	20	0	0	4	30,843	45
	Lupane	109,545	21,909	20	38,341	35	32,864	30	16,432	15	0	0	3	49,294	45
	Nkayi	119,359	17,904	15	47,744	40	35,808	30	17,904	15	0	0	3	53,710	45
	Tsholotsho	125,904	31,476	25	37,771	30	37,771	30	18,886	15	0	0	3	56,656	45
	Umguza	98,089	29,427	30	34,331	35	24,522	25	9,809	10	0	0	3	34,330	35
Matabeleland South	Beitbridge	87,586	17,517	20	26,276	30	35,034	40	8,759	10	0	0	3	43,792	50
	Bulilima	99,045	14,857	15	34,666	35	39,618	40	9,905	10	0	0	3	49,522	50
	Gwanda	126,625	31,656	25	25,325	20	50,650	40	18,994	15	0	0	3	69,643	55
	Insiza	109,733	16,460	15	38,407	35	43,893	40	10,973	10	0	0	3	54,866	50
	Mangwe	72,422	21,727	30	28,969	40	14,484	20	7,242	10	0	0	3	21,726	30
	Matobo	102,741	20,548	20	30,822	30	35,959	35	15,411	15	0	0	3	51,370	50
	Umzingwane	68,891	13,778	20	27,556	40	20,667	30	6,889	10	0	0	3	27,556	40
Midlands	Chirumhanzu	87,879	26,364	30	30,758	35	26,364	30	4,394	5	0	0	3	30,756	35
	Gokwenorth	262,869	52,574	20	65,717	25	118,291	45	26,287	10	0	0	3	144,577	55
	Gokwesouth	334,648	66,930	20	133,859	40	100,394	30	33,465	10	0	0	3	133,858	40
	Gweru	100,407	35,142	35	45,183	45	15,061	15	5,020	5	0	0	3	20,081	20
	Kwekwe	191,096	38,219	20	76,438	40	66,884	35	9,555	5	0	0	3	76,437	40
	Mberengwa	203,160	40,632	20	60,948	30	81,264	40	20,316	10	0	0	3	101,580	50
	Shurugwi	84,837	46,660	55	16,967	20	16,967	20	4,242	5	0	0	3	21,208	25
	Zvishavane	79,306	19,827	25	27,757	35	27,757	35	3,965	5	0	0	3	31,722	40
Grand Total		9,706,118	2,580,562	26	2,784,135	29	3,294,335	34	1,047,085	11	0	0		4,341,367	45