

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Zimbabwe

June-August 2010

Key Messages

- The national average maize prices have remained stable during the last months, under 0.30 USD per kg.
- Political tensions continue and violence has erupted in the capital city in recent weeks.
- Food security conditions remain alarming in the long term, and an estimated 1.68 million people currently require food assistance.
- Different programmes are in place to support agricultural production and vulnerable consumers.

Background

The total population in 2008 was 12.46 million with an annual the growth rate of 0%. About 40% of the population was recognized to be undernourished, while the proportion of HIV among adults was 19% in 2005.

Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2008 (WB)	12.463
Population growth rate - 2008 (WB)	0%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP	n.a.
Population below 1\$ PPP per day	n.a.
Rural population - 2008 (WB)	62%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2005 (WB)	19%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2005/2007 (FAO)	30%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	56%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	4%

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	44%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2008 (WHO)	42
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	82%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2007 (WHO)	15%

Prices

Maize prices on the whole have declined and remain stable this year, with an average national price below USD 0.30/kg, as of July. In Harare, prices fell from February to May, conforming to annual seasonal trends, and remained stable from May to August at USD 0.23/kg. Compared to the international prices of US Maize No2 Yellow, USA Gulf quoted 174.11 in August while the price of maize in Harare was 32% higher (230 USD/T). The liberalization of the grain market has improved the availability of cereal products in the country and heightened the role of the commercial sector in meeting national cereal requirements.

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

The situation is still tense in the country. Violence was reported as the coalition government was holding hearings on a new constitution in Harare. The prolonged dry spell in December and January negatively affected crop production in southern and eastern provinces, particularly in the Manicaland and Masvingo provinces which experienced the largest drop in maize production relative to last season. These provinces are projected to have the highest number of food insecure people between January and March (peak of the lean season).

Refugees and IDPs	2007	2008	n.a.
Total in the country	4524	3998	n.a.
Total outside the country	48707	51639	23872

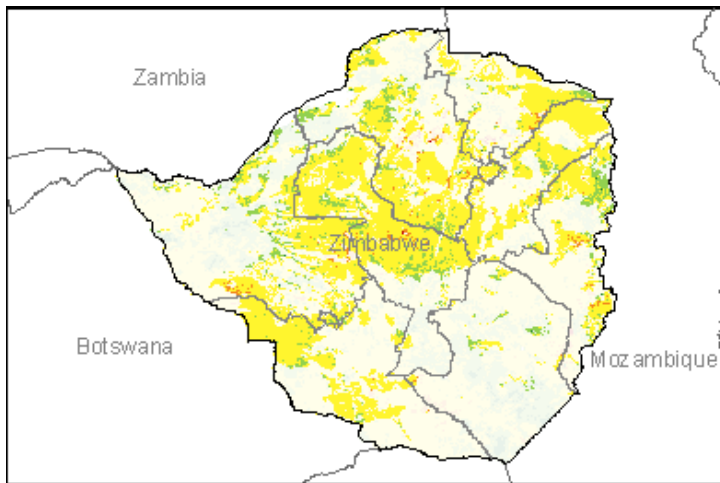
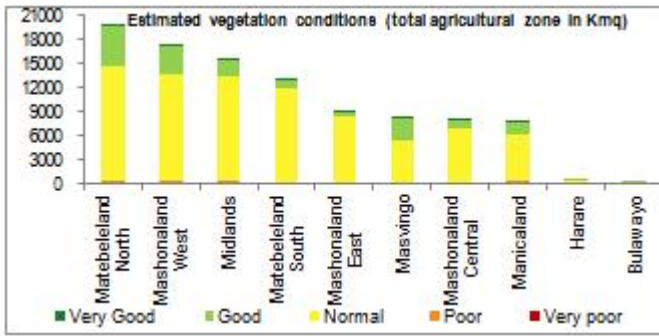
Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 22/09/2010.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Vegetation Condition

At this stage of the dry season, normal to good vegetation conditions are observed for all the country. The indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the relative difference between the NDVI for August 2010 and the average of the last 10 years on the agricultural zones derived from the GLOBCOVER database.



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Food Security Situation Assessment

The CFSAM estimated that about 1.68 million people will require food assistance in the 2010/11 marketing year (April March). In the short term, GIEWS reports an exceptional shortfall in food production while FEWSNET estimates that the overall food security situation remains stable. WFP and IFPRI describe a very high and alarming scale of hunger.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESMENT

			FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2010
Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	

At the national level, food security has remained stable with supply from the 2009/10 harvests still in stock and a constant supply of basic food stuffs on the market. This situation is likely to prevail through Sep ...[more](#)

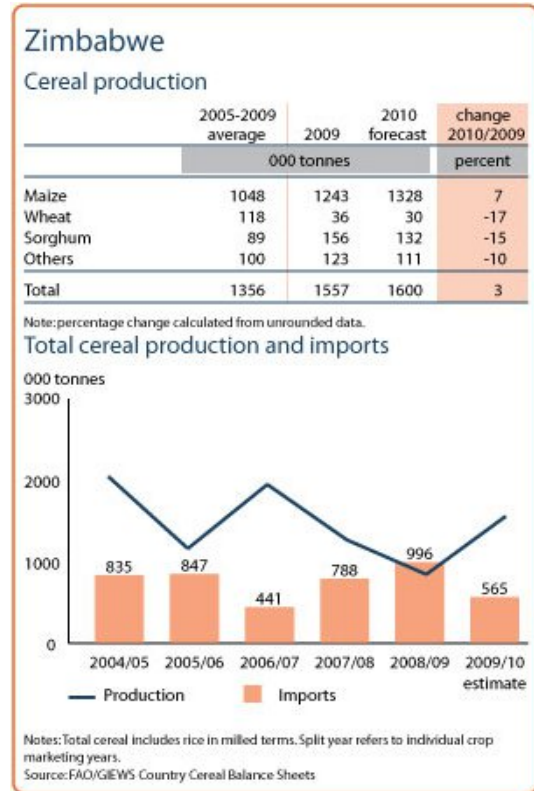
SCALE OF HUNGER

					WFP/2009 Hunger Map
Very high hunger (>= 35% undernour.)	Moderately high hunger (20-34% undernour.)	Moderately low hunger (10-19% undernour.)	Very low hunger (5-9% undernour.)	Extremely low hunger (<5% undernour.)	

					IFPRI/2009 GHI
Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low	

Food Balance Sheet

A joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (CFSAM), in June 2010, estimated the 2010 maize production at 1.35 million tonnes, showing a 7% increase over last season's output. Wheat production has fallen to 30,000 tonnes. Total cereals imports are forecast at 317,000 tonnes of, including nearly 200 000 tonnes of maize to satisfy domestic requirements.



Source: [GIEWS Country Briefs](#)

Government Policies

The Gvmt implemented an extensive input programme for the 2010/11 agricultural season: about 475,000 households have been targeted to receive seed and fertiliser assistance. The Gvmt parastatal, Grain Marketing Board (GMB), will continue to maintain a floor price. Social protection programmes such as food assistance and food for work.

Consumer and market oriented measures	Free marketing of grain.
Producer oriented measures	Support to crop production; floor price.
Trade policy measures	Removal of import duties.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	Public Assistance Programme (PAP) for vulnerable households; Public Works Programme (PWP).

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

- [ZIMBABWE: A Fourth Chimurenga, for gold](#)
- [In-Brief: "No position" on EU restrictions on Zimbabwe](#)
- [ZIMBABWE: Struggling to create a constitution](#)
- [ZIMBABWE: A decade of living in the aftermath of flooding](#)
- [ZIMBABWE: Juliet Mashoko, "I was beaten on the head and all over..."](#)

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
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