

## ZimVAC 2016 Annual Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA): The Process

As has become the norm every year, the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC), a consortium of Government and Development Partners, undertook the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) across the eight rural provinces of Zimbabwe in May 2016. Guided by the Food and Nutrition Security Policy and ZimAsset (Food Security & Nutrition cluster), ZimVAC aims at ensuring a national integrated food and nutrition security information system that provides timely and reliable information on the food and nutrition security situation, the effectiveness of programmes and informs decision making. It is the central pillar around which the Food and Nutrition Council (FNC) builds its strategy to fulfil the sixth commitment of the Government of Zimbabwe's Food and Nutrition Security Policy (FNSP) and monitor implementation of the ZimASSET. The whole RLA 2016 exercise got funding from both Government and Development Partners.

### Assessment Purpose

The general purpose of the 2016 ZimVAC RLA was to update information on Zimbabwe's rural livelihoods with a particular focus on rural households' vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity. The assessment also sought to identify constraints to improving community resilience and rural livelihoods including opportunities and pathways of addressing them.

### Specific Objectives

The specific objectives for the assessment were as follows:



Left: Vincent Nyoni (Hwange District Enumerator) conducting a household interview

- To estimate the rural population that is likely to be food insecure in the 2016/17 consumption year, their geographic distribution and the severity of their food insecurity.
- To assess the nutrition status of children of 6 – 59 months.
- To describe the socio-economic profiles of rural households in terms of such characteristics as their demographics, access to basic services (education and water and sanitation facilities), income sources, incomes and expenditure patterns, food consumption patterns and consumption coping strategies.
- To determine coping strategies used by communities in all rural provinces of the country.
- To determine the coverage of food access interventions in all rural provinces of the country.
- To identify constraints to improving community resilience and rural livelihoods including opportunities and pathways of addressing them in all provinces of the countries.
- To assess the diversity of livelihood options in the 2016/17 consumption year.

## Technical Scope

Generally, the assessment covered a number of various thematic areas which included household demographics, access to education and extension services, food consumption patterns, food sources and nutrition, income and expenditure patterns and levels and household food security among others.

## Methodology and Assessment Process

### National Supervisors and District Enumerators Recruitment and Training

An appropriate survey design and protocol, informed by the survey objectives, was developed. It used both a structured household questionnaire and a community focus group discussion questionnaire as the two primary data collection instruments. District key informant interviews were also conducted.

ZimVAC national supervisors and enumerators were recruited from Government, United Nations and Non-Governmental Organisations and underwent training in all aspects of the assessment (background, data collection tools, assessment sampling strategy, assessment supervision and field supervision).



Austin Chivaraidze (Enumerator – Murehwa, Mash East) going through completed household questionnaires before submitting them to the team leader

The Ministry of Rural Development, Promotion and Preservation of National Culture and Heritage in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing through the Provincial Administrators' offices coordinated the recruitment of district level enumerators and deployment of vehicles in each of the 60 rural districts of Zimbabwe.

The district enumeration teams comprised of five officers from Government and local NGOs. Each district enumeration team had at least 2 anthropometrists that had the responsibility of measuring children aged 6-59 months. District enumerators were trained by the national supervisors in their respective provinces. Primary data collection took place from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2016, followed by data entry and cleaning from 16<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016. Data entry and cleaning took place at Food and Nutrition Council, SIRDC Complex in Hatcliffe, Harare.

## Survey Sample Size and Data Collection Methods

The survey sample size was determined such that key household food insecurity indicators and Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence were statistically representative at district level with;

- 95% confidence level;
- 10% precision level for the key household food insecurity indicator; and
- 3.4% precision level for the GAM rate



Sampled Wards

Primary data collection was undertaken in 25 enumeration areas (EAs) in each district. The EAs were selected using systematic random sampling applying the proportion to population size principle. Households were systematically randomly sampled in one randomly selected village in each of the sampled

EAs. One community key informant Focus Group Discussion (FGD) was held in each of the selected wards, bringing the total community key informant FGDs to 1,095. One district key informant interview on food assistance interventions was conducted in each of the 60 rural districts.

The final sample of households was 14,434 and that for children aged 6 to 59 months was 19,057. In addition to the above, field observations also yielded valuable information that was used in the assessment.



*A focus group discussion underway in Mat North*

The provincial breakdown of the sampled households is shown in the table below:

*Table 1: Provincial Sampled Households Populations*

Province	Children under 5	Households	Community FGDs
Manicaland	2150	1675	139
Mashonaland Central	2581	1915	148
Mashonaland East	2767	2143	144
Mashonaland West	2165	1762	110
Matabeleland North	2296	1670	140
Matabeleland South	2242	1679	128
Midlands	2575	1908	148
Masvingo	2281	1682	138
Total	19057	14434	1095



*Some of the ZimVAC National Supervisors during the report writing workshop*

All primary data collected from the field was captured using the Census and Survey Processing (CSPRO) software by a team of 73 data entry clerks and it was consolidated and converted into three Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) datasets (Household survey, Child Nutrition and Community key informant interviews).

## Report Writing and Data Analysis

Data analysis and report writing ran from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2016. Various secondary data sources were also used to contextualise the analysis and reporting. The analysis and report writing was done by a team of technical officers from Government, UN and technical partners under the leadership and coordination of FNC. The national ZimVAC supervisors undertook the data cleaning and analysis using SPSS, Emergency Nutrition Assessment (ENA) software for the Standardised Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition (SMART) methodology, Microsoft excel and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) packages. Analyses of the different thematic areas covered by the assessment were informed and guided by relevant international frameworks where they existed.

## Conclusion

This process culminated in the development of two national power point RLA Reports (a summary and detailed report) which will be used by both the Government and Development partners in making informed decisions and programming.

## Picture Gallery



*Mashonaland West enumerators undergoing training in Chinhoyi*



*ZimVAC National Supervisors engaged in data cleaning*



*ZimVAC National Supervisors during the report writing and analysis workshop in Bulawayo*



*Yvonne Mavhunga (FNC) making a presentation during the report writing workshop*



*Angella Kafembe (Fewsnets), presenting the Markets section of the report during report writing workshop*



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