

**Food Deficit Mitigation
Strategy
(FDMS)**

**Food For Assets/Public Works
Programme**

OPERATIONAL MANUAL

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIALWELFARE

(MoPSLSW)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Food Insecurity Post Agricultural Season in Zimbabwe

The 2nd Round Crop Assessment Survey shows whether there will be a national cereal deficit or not owing to the prevailing conditions. In the event of an unfavorable weather pattern the likelihood of a drought is quickly predicted and mitigation measures are put in place.

The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment conducted in the second quarter also comes in handy providing levels of food insecurity in the rural districts. ZimVac Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) survey also monitors issues of chronic malnutrition in areas that are traditionally food secure. Once all data on food insecurity and general vulnerability is available Government together with partners put in place interventions to assist vulnerable populations.

2 The Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy

In response to the food insecurity of the 2009/2010 agricultural season, the Government in partnership with Donors and Humanitarian partners developed a Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy (FDMS). The FDMS follows four phased delivery of assistance to the vulnerable households and is guided by the following principles and assumptions:

- That it is fundamentally the responsibility of the Government of Zimbabwe to provide social protection to its citizens so that they can manage vulnerability associated with exogenous shocks.
- That since Zimbabwe is part of the international community; support from donor partners is welcome to complement Government efforts.
- That to mitigate the effects of the seasonal drought, the Government of Zimbabwe will be complemented by the donor community through the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP).
- That the GMB is and will continue to be supported to purchase grain locally.

2.1 Objectives of FDMS

The FDMS seeks to:

- Mitigate the effects of drought on **NON LABOUR CONSTRAINED** households through public works / cash transfers and food for asset programmes,
- Avail free food assistance to the chronically ill, **LABOUR CONSTRAINED** older person headed households, and child headed households,
- Increase food access by **NON –RESOURCE CONSTRAINED** households through improved market distribution, and
- Mitigate the impact of future drought through the rehabilitation of existing irrigation schemes.

Whilst the FDMS will be implemented in 4 phases, the strategy takes cognizance of the fact that in order to support crop production, partners will alternate between community works / food for asset programmes and general food distribution as follows:

July to October Community asset / food for asset programmes

November to December General vulnerable group feeding programmes

January to March (PEAK HUNGER) General vulnerable group feeding programmes

The period November to December will also be complemented with free input distribution in order to promote household and national food security.

2.2 Promoting Effective Partnerships

The FDMS calls for increased cooperation between government and Donor agencies working to ensure food security in the country. Whilst phase 1 of the strategy will be wholly funded by Government, phases 2, 3, and 4 have an equal contribution by both Government and Donors.

In order to avoid creating community disharmony, Government and Donors will operate in the same ward and targeting the same group. As such, assistance will alternate from one month to the other, with one month beneficiaries receiving a cash transfer from the government and donor support the following month.

2.3 Targeting Mechanisms

To ensure that assistance is channelled to those districts and areas that have the highest levels of food insecurity, a targeting methodology based on vulnerability assessments (2nd Round of Crop Assessments and May ZIMVAC) has been developed for the national, district and community levels.

2.3.1 National Level Targeting

The FDMS will be implemented in most food insecure districts as identified by the 2nd crop assessment and the ZIMVAC. Assistance will depend on the level of vulnerability.

2.3.2 District Level Targeting

Within the District, the FDMS is expected to be implemented in wards with high levels of food insecurity. The District Drought Relief Committees will identify wards that are most food insecure using the May- June ZIMVAC results.

2.3.3 Community Level Targeting

Beneficiary selection process for **non labour constrained** households will be to a greater extent self targeting by use of a remuneration rate which is far below the prevailing wage rate in agriculture. Therefore, households whose opportunity cost of labour is higher will be most unlikely to participate in the programme as they could be engaged in other more paying activities and be able to feed their families.

However, the self targeting mechanism will be modified so as not to exclude non labour constrained households in the following categories:

- Female-headed households
- Elderly headed households with labour.
- Large households caring for orphans.
- Disabled persons households with labour
- Vulnerable and disadvantaged households.

For targeted, free cash / food distribution, priority would be given to:

- Child headed households
- People living with chronic illness
- People living with disabilities
- Older person headed households.

2.4 Identification of works / community assets

The community, through its local level committees have the authority to identify and prioritise community projects to be executed through community works / food for assets programmes. However, proposed projects must have a clear link to food security, poverty reduction and empowerment of local communities.

2.5 Supervision, verification of works

Supervision and verification of community works will be conducted by the Ministry of Local Government, Urban and Rural Development through Local authorities. The Drought Relief Committees, will arrange logistics

2.6 Modalities for cash / food distribution

The District Drought Relief Committees will arrange logistics for food / cash distribution.

3 Promotion and Public Relations

The Ministry of Labour and Social Services (MLSS), RDCs and Implementing partners will undertake an intensive campaign to educate and inform people about the existence of the strategy. Part of the information to be given out includes strategy objectives, geographical coverage, the target groups, eligibility criteria, and who to contact for more information.

The MLSS, assisted by the Ministry of Local Government, will organise workshops at the district level to promote the objectives of the strategy and lay out modalities for stakeholder participation in FDMS implementation.

At the local level, promotion will be done through Local Governance Structures, local leaders, schools, Community-based Organisations (CBO), NGOs, and traditional leaders.

4. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF FDMS

National level

The FDMS will be coordinated through a technical committee, chaired by the Ministry of Labour and Social Services. The following are members of the Technical Committee:

Ministry of Labour and Social Services (Chair)
Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development
Ministry of Local Government, Urban and Rural Development
Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development
Ministry of Regional Integration and International Cooperation
Grain Marketing Board (GMB)
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Youth, Indigenization and Empowerment
Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion
Department of Agricultural Research and Extension (AGRITEX)
Partners (World Bank, Food Agricultural Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and its selected implementing partners)
Donors (USAID, DFID, GRM etc

District level

At the District level, the District Drought Relief Committees will oversee implementation of the FDMS. The District Drought Relief Committees will co-opt more members who are Key in operationalising the strategy.

Village level

A village food / cash distribution committee will be constituted. The village head, representatives of women and youths will be members of the committee.

FOOD DEFICIT MITIGATION STRATEGY ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

